WEDNESDAY
April 26, 2023

BENGALURU
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'LET'S FINISH THIS JOB'

Biden makes 2024 presidential run official

WORLD » PAGE 11

NCERT CONUNDRUM

The limited role of textbooks in history

History taught in schools should be more than about individual 'doers'

OPINION » PAGE 7

OBITUARY

Punjab ex-CM Parkash Singh Badal passes away

NEWS » PAGE 8

Amid ceasefire, first set of Indians leaves war-battered Sudan

The group of 278 people was among the first to reach Port Sudan for evacuation; more measures are being taken to broaden Operation Kaveri

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Rescue route: Indians queuing up to board Navy ship *INS Sumedha* at Port Sudan on Tuesday. PTI

The first batch of Indians stranded in conflict-torn Sudan was evacuated as part of Operation Kaveri on board *INS Sumedha* from Port Sudan on Tuesday.

The group of 278 people were among the first to reach Port Sudan during the 72-hour ceasefire that took effect from Monday midnight. They are expected to reach the Saudi port of Jeddah within a day.

The Ministry of External Affairs said on Tuesday that additional measures are being taken to broaden the operation.

"*INS Teg* joins Operation Kaveri. Arrives at Port Sudan with additional officials and essential relief supplies for stranded Indians. Will boost ongoing evacuation efforts by Embassy Camp Office at Port Sudan," MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi announced.

Indian citizens at the Sudanese port told *The Hindu* that the Indian embassy had begun coordinating over the past four days for possible evacuation from Khartoum, Omdurman and other crisis-hit areas.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

SC to hear wrestlers' plea against BJP MP

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the sexual harassment allegations raised by seven women wrestlers against Wrestling Federation of India president and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh were "serious".

A Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud listed for Friday the petition filed by the grapplers regarding the non-registration of FIR.

The Bench, on a request by the petitioners, directed their identities be redacted from the court's records.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Campaign blitz by national leaders in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the Assembly elections a fortnight away, Tuesday saw national leaders campaigning in various parts of the State.

AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, campaigning in Old Mysore region, accused the BJP government of looting ₹1.5 lakh crore with "40% commission". Union Home Minister Amit Shah tore into the Congress campaign in North Karnataka districts and said that defections of a few Lingayat leaders from the BJP to the Congress would not hurt the party.

DETAILS ON » PAGE 4

NEARBY

Modi to virtually interact with 50 lakh BJP workers

BENGALURU
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact through virtual mode with about 50 lakh workers of the BJP in poll-bound Karnataka on Thursday. » Page 4

Rebellion trouble continues for political parties

BENGALURU
Rebellion has turned out to be a headache for political parties as several disappointed ticket aspirants have remained in the fray even after the deadline for withdrawal of nominations ended on April 24. » Page 4

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

J & K government to revive traditional millet cultivation

8,000 hectares of land. The project aims to double the millet productivity per-hectare from 10 to 20 quintals, the officials said. PTI

Jio rolls out four times more 5G sites compared to Airtel

82,500 sites. The number of 5G sites rolled out by Airtel is 19,142, according to data. Prime Minister Modi launched 5G services on October 1. PTI

The consumer confidence index of the U.S. lowest in April

101.3 The U.S. consumer confidence fell to a nine-month low in April led by a darkening outlook that augers a recession beginning in the near future, according to a survey. REUTERS

The First Republic Bank shares hit a record low

29 In percentage. The First Republic Bank shares tanked in early trade to hit a record low following its first-quarter earnings. The lender reported a more than $100 billion plunge in deposits in the quarter. REUTERS

The death toll of followers of a Kenyan cult keep increasing

89 deaths. The death toll of followers of a Kenyan cult who believed they would go to heaven if they starved themselves has now risen, the Interior Minister said. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Understanding temperature anomalies

Global warming does not mean that each month or each year will be warmer than the previous month or the previous year. The global distribution of temperature anomalies is due to land-ocean-atmosphere processes that dynamically determine the weather and climate

EXPLAINER

Raghu Murtugudde

The story so far:

There was news recently that March 2023 was the second warmest March on record. What does this actually mean in terms of impact on the planet, on the local weather, and on the human psyche? Do such headlines help or are they likely to render people numb to the idea of global warming by normalising the warming as a part of everyday life? The monthly report and the subsequent end-of-the-year annual summary by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) serves as an excellent resource to contextualise the individual month's ranking by temperature anomalies.

Why was March 2023 the second warmest?

March 2023 was indeed the second warmest in the instrumental record. The warmest March occurred just a few years ago in 2016, when the biggest El Niño of the 21st century triggered a 'mini' global warming. But the January-to-March average temperature anomaly ranks 2023 as the fourth warmest such period on record. This raises some obvious questions. Why was March 2023 the second warmest and not the warmest?

As seen in the figure below, each year's March can be warmer or cooler than the March of the year before. Natural climate variability, including events like El Niño, can temporarily spike temperatures. The old adage (often mistakenly attributed to Mark Twain) says that climate is what we expect and weather is what we get. In India, we expect March to be the beginning of the scorching summer season. But a particular year's March may be cooler due to some other climate factors, such as a La Niña, and especially when averaged over a region as large as India or even an Indian State.

A year is an 'El Niño year' if warmer water spreads in a band from west to east over the equatorial Pacific Ocean. In a 'La Niña year', cooler water spreads east to west in the same region. Both phenomena have distinct and significant effects on the global climate. (Global mean temperatures themselves represent the increasing amount of additional energy we are trapping in the earth system and preventing its escape to space by, among other things, increasing the atmospheric concentration of heat-trapping greenhouse gases.)

Why is context important?

The distribution of temperature deviations for March 2023 from the baseline long-term average March temperature is visible in the global map of temperature anomalies (Map 1). The monstrous warming to the west to north of India begins to tell the story of the weather anomalies that rendered a cooler March over Mumbai, excess pre-monsoon rains over the northwest, and scorching heatwaves in Kerala and Odisha. The Arabian Sea has also warmed more than expected this March. We must watch carefully if this continues: it can favour a stronger monsoon but may also enhance cyclogenesis (i.e. birth of cyclonic circulation) over the Arabian Sea.

The global distribution of temperature anomalies is due to land-ocean-atmosphere processes that dynamically determine the weather and climate. Global warming does not mean each month or each year will be warmer than the previous month or the previous year. Instead, a better place to begin would be by averaging the weather over a decade. Decade-to-decade warming clearly shows that humans are now ensuring each decade is warmer than the one before.

As with the temperature, precipitation anomalies for March 2023 show the impact of a warm March over Eurasia in the form of below-normal precipitation. We know that reduced snowfall over the Eurasian landmass has historically tended to favour a stronger monsoon. As it happens, 2023 is expected to be an El Niño year, and El Niños tend to produce weaker monsoons. So this summer's El Niño effect could be blunted by the lower snow cover over Eurasia.

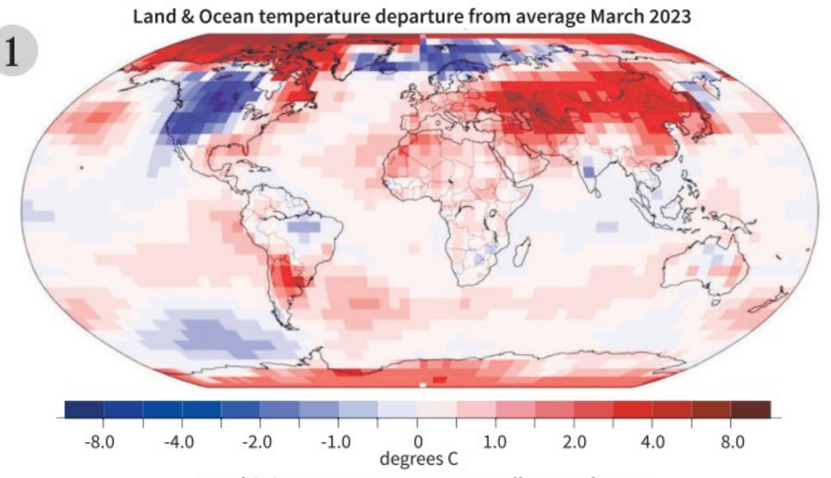
In sum, climate scientists need to provide the proper context when they compare and rank individual months against each other. This will help the people at large better understand global warming as well as its cascading effects on the weather they experience every day. All global warming is local; nobody lives in the global mean temperature. And the better people understand the impact of global warming in their backyard, the likelier they can be engaged in climate action.

Raghu Murtugudde is a visiting professor at IIT Bombay and an emeritus professor at the University of Maryland.

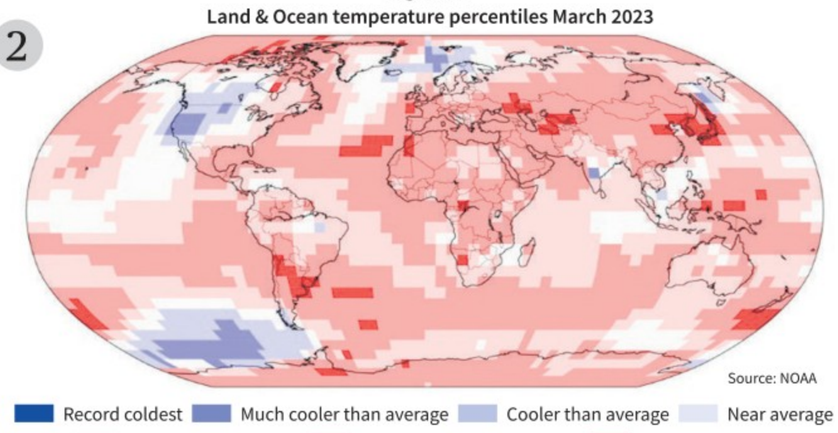
Unstable warming

Map 1 shows the distribution of temperature deviations for March 2023 from the baseline long-term average March temperature. Map 2 shows the percentile ranking of temperature anomalies

1



2



THE GIST

- The end-of-the-year annual summary by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) contextualises individual months ranking by temperature anomalies.
- While this year's March was the second warmest March, the warmest March occurred just a few years ago in 2016, when the biggest El Niño of the 21st century triggered a 'mini' global warming. Each year's March can be warmer or cooler than the March of the year before. Natural climate variability, including events like El Niño, can temporarily spike temperatures.
- Climate scientists need to provide the proper context when they compare and rank individual months against each other.

Genome sequencing and the Genome India Project

Why is the Genome India Project important? What is the significance of genome sequencing?

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:

The Department of Biotechnology recently said that the exercise to sequence 10,000 Indian human genomes and create a database under the Centre-backed Genome India Project is about two-thirds complete. About 7,000 Indian genomes have already been sequenced of which 3,000 are available for public access to researchers.

What is genome sequencing?

The human genome is the entire set of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) residing in the nucleus of every cell of the human body. It carries the complete genetic information responsible for the development and functioning of an organism. The DNA consists of a double-stranded molecule built up by four bases. While the sequence of base pairs is identical in all humans, there are differences in the genome of every human being that makes them unique. The process of deciphering the order of base pairs, to decode the genetic fingerprint of a human is called genome sequencing.

In 1990, a group of scientists began to work on determining the whole sequence of the human genome under the Human Genome Project. The Project released its latest version of the complete human genome in 2023, with a 0.3% error margin. This shows that genomic sequencing has now evolved to a stage where large sequencers can process thousands of samples simultaneously. There are several approaches to genome sequencing, including whole genome sequencing. The process of whole-genome sequencing, made possible by the Human Genome Project, now facilitates the reading of a person's individual genome to identify differences from the average human genome.

What are applications of sequencing?

Genome sequencing has been used to evaluate rare disorders, preconditions for disorders and even cancer from the viewpoint of genetics, rather than as diseases of certain organs. Nearly 10,000 diseases – including cystic fibrosis and thalassemia – are known to be the result of a single gene malfunctioning. In public health, however, sequencing has been used to read the codes of viruses. One of its first practical usages was in 2014, when a group of scientists from M.I.T and Harvard sequenced samples of Ebola from infected African patients to show how genomic data of viruses could reveal hidden pathways of transmission.

How did it help during the pandemic?

In January 2020, at the start of the pandemic,Chinese scientist Yong-Zhen Zhang, sequenced the genome of a novel pathogen causing infections in the city of Wuhan. Mr. Zhang then shared it with his virologist friend Edward Holmes in Australia, who published the genomic code online. It was after this that virologists began evaluating the sequence to try and understand how to combat the virus, track the mutating variants and their intensity and spread, and to come up with a vaccine.

To enable an effective response against COVID-19, researchers kept track of emerging variants, conducting further studies about their transmissibility, immune escape and potential to cause severe disease. Genomic sequencing became one of the first steps in this important process. Here, the purpose of genome sequencing was to understand the role of certain mutations in increasing the virus's infectivity.

India also put in place a sequencing framework – the Indian SARS-COV-2 Genomics Consortia (INSACOG). This consortium of labs across the country, was tasked with scanning coronavirus samples from patients and flagging the presence of variants known to have spiked transmission internationally. As of early December 2021, INSACOG had sequenced about 1,00,000 samples.

What is the Genome India Project?

India's 1.3 billion-strong population consists of over 4,600 population groups, many of which are endogamous. Thus, the Indian population harbours distinct variations, with disease-causing mutations often amplified within some of these groups. But despite being a large population with diverse ethnic groups, India lacks a comprehensive catalogue of genetic variations.

Creating a database of Indian genomes allows researchers to learn about genetic variants unique to India's population groups and use that to customise drugs. About 20 institutions across India are involved in the Project.

THE GIST

- The Department of Biotechnology recently said that the exercise to sequence 10,000 Indian human genomes and create a database under the Centre-backed Genome India Project is about two-thirds complete.
- Genome sequencing has been used to evaluate rare disorders, preconditions for disorders and even cancer from the viewpoint of genetics, rather than as diseases of certain organs.
- Creating a database of Indian genomes allows researchers to learn about genetic variants unique to India's population groups and use that to customise drugs.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, APR. 26
RISE 06:02 SET 18:34
RISE 10:56 SET 00:00

THURSDAY, APR. 27
RISE 06:01 SET 18:34
RISE 11:49 SET 00:15

FRIDAY, APR. 28
RISE 06:01 SET 18:34
RISE 12:40 SET 01:01

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	26
Mysuru	35	24
Bengaluru	33	23

Bengaluru Today
34°C The weather will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C A pleasant morning with mist & haze. Day will be warm and humid. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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THE HINDU
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COVID-19 exposed holes in health infrastructure

Over the last two years, the BBMP has not been able to set up hospitals in every Assembly constituency even as it proposed a ₹1,242.27-crore health infrastructure project

FOCUS BENGALURU

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

If there was one sector which was exposed for its shortcomings like never before in recent times, it was healthcare. The COVID-19 pandemic showed how the city was inadequately prepared to tackle it, given the lack of quality public healthcare.

Residents are yet to get over the situation they have faced during the pandemic. Memories of the shortage of hospital beds, poor healthcare infrastructure and lack of ICUs are still fresh. Prakash Padaki, a member of the BTM Layout Residents Welfare Association, said, "I myself had to face the shortage of beds during the pandemic. I was admitted to a private hospital near Hebbal for not getting a bed near my house. That is when I got to know how bad the city's health infrastructure is. Despite all this, the government is yet to improve the health infrastructure."

However, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is yet to learn its lessons from the pandemic. For the last two years, the civic body has not been able to set up hospitals in every Assembly constituency in the city even as it proposed a ₹1,242.27 crore health infrastructure project in 2021.

The BBMP had also asked the government to set up primary health care centres (PHCs) in 57 wards that don't have one, along with setting up a hospital in every Assembly constituency. That apart, four new multi-speciality hospitals were being planned, while paediatric care facilities in seven referral hospitals and physical triage centres were proposed in 31 PHCs along with upgrading of infrastructure.

BBMP officials say they have set up 'Namma Clinics' to improve the healthcare facilities in the city along with PHCs. THE HINDU

Namma Clinics

BBMP officials say they have set up 'Namma Clinics' to improve the healthcare facilities in the city along with PHCs. "The BBMP had proposed various health infrastructure measures for the city. We are continuously working on setting up health care centres. Already, we have set up around 200 Namma Clinics in the city," a BBMP official said.

The Namma Clinics, according to officials, are expected to ease pressure on existing healthcare institutions as they can treat non-communicable diseases, fever, mental illnesses, and handle immunisation programmes.

The BBMP had plans to construct Namma Clinics in all 243 wards. Along with existing PHCs, the civic body also constructed dedicated women's clinics in 57 locations to provide healthcare services to women from low-income groups who often can't afford gynaecologists and other services.

Karnataka Votes 2023

What city got in recent Budget

- ₹92 crore earmarked to establish 61 primary health centres
- ₹2 crore to treat lifestyle-related diseases
- ₹20 crore for the anti-rabies five-in-one vaccine
- BBMP has proposed a 'One Health Plan' to prevent zoonotic diseases

However, some of those opened suffer from a severe shortage of doctors and medical infrastructure, including medicines. A resident of Sanjaynagar said though a clinic was inaugurated, it was never opened to the public. "Sometimes, when the shutters are up, civil works are underway. When I asked the officials, they said medical instruments are yet to reach the clinic, and doctors are yet to be appointed. Then why inaugurate it? They should have instead developed the Primary Health Centre (PHC)," said Mohan Kumar, a resident.

In the 2023-24 BBMP budget, the civic body earmarked ₹92 crore to establish 61 primary health centres in the city.

One health plan

To prevent zoonotic diseases, the BBMP has proposed a 'One Health Plan'. Officials said that the plan is yet to taken up.

Meanwhile, the BBMP, along with Bengaluru Smart City Ltd. (BSCL), is setting up the central clinical command centre to provide virtual medical consultation, especially with specialists like cardiologists, nephrologists, among others, in various primary health centres (PHCs) and referral hospitals under the BBMP. The BBMP recently invited applications from eligible doctors to work in the smart clinics. Though announced in 2020, not much headway has been made. But officials say the preparation is going on, and it will be launched soon.

Around 17 lakh citizens, especially those belonging to lower socio-economic groups, visit the 141 PHCs, six referrals, and around 30 maternity hospitals in the city. With the lack of specialists, many are forced to visit private hospitals.

Health experts have urged the civic authorities to appoint a dedicated health commissioner to look after the city's health care infrastructure, following which the civic body had announced that it would soon appoint a health commissioner. But it is yet to be done.

(In this series, we look at the major infrastructural issues affecting the city and how recent governments have dealt with them.)

In Malleswaram, BJP riding the development wave, while Cong. wooing voters with hyper local promises

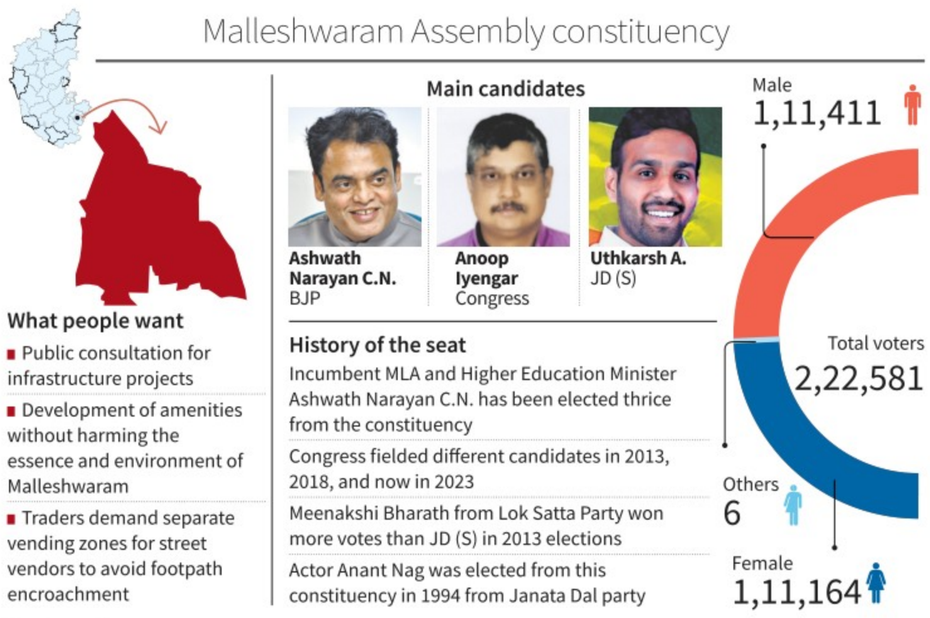
KEY CONSTITUENCY

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

From heritage buildings to swanky malls, numerous educational institutions and shopping streets, Malleswaram constituency in the heart of the city is widely known for its old Bengaluru charm, but the citizens here have lately been in the news for their protests against several infrastructure projects.

While certain sectors have been happy with the developmental projects taken up by incumbent MLA C.N. Ashwath Narayan who has won from the seat the last three times, the same has also been opposed by a few other sections. For instance, the widening of Sankey Road and the construction of a flyover from T. Chowdaiah Road was one such initiative which received immense backlash. From children writing letters to 'Bommai uncle' to protesters wearing black to later FIRs being registered against them, the issues went a long way.

Alleging that their local leader did not take their side or even open doors for clear dialogue during the protests, citizens have expressed their disappointment in the incumbent MLA. The opposition parties too had used the controversy to criticise the government. After FIRs were registered against the protesters, Congress leaders declared that they would stop the Sankey project as well as withdraw the FIRs if they came to power.



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled / Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled / Vote share	Third place	Votes polled / Vote share
2013	Ashwath Narayan C.N. BJP	57,609 53.19%	B.K. Shivaram Congress	36,543 33.74%	Meenakshi Bharath Lok Satta Party	7,610 7.02%
2018	Ashwath Narayan C.N. BJP	83,130 67.22%	Kengal Shreepadharenu Congress	29,130 23.55%	Madhusudhan. N. JD(S)	7,884 6.37%

The white-topping work on Sampige Road had affected trade activities for some time. However, traders now seem to be happy with the results

"We are extremely concerned with the unscientific development projects which do not even follow the guidelines prescribed by the government itself. When we approached the MLA with our concerns (about Sankey project), he just said that it was a BBMP project and there was no call to discuss the matter. We (public) have no say in big infrastructure projects. We have an institution like Indian Institute of Science (IISC) in our own constituency and even then, expert consultations are not sought for bigger projects," said Preeti Sunderajan, Co-founder, Citizens for Sankey.

The white-topping work which had been taken up on Sampige Road had also rendered the busy street almost unwalkable for a period of time, which had affected the trade activities. However, traders now seem to be happy with the results. "Infrastructure has been developed in a very good way, no doubt. But we now want the more than 600 street vendors who have occupied these developed footpaths to be directed to a vending zone so that it is beneficial to traders and pedestrians alike," said Ravishankar, president, Malleswaram Commercial Forum.

When asked about the opposition which he has faced on a few fronts, Dr. Ashwath Narayan said that projects were initiated after taking into confidence the local residents and traders and people were happy with the results. "Be it white topping in Sampige Road or the development of Sankey Lake, people's faith in the party and the work we have done has grown. The support we are seeing this year is greater than last term," he said.

Congress leader Anoop Iyengar on the other hand, is trying to woo the voters with his 'Marvelous Malleswaram' manifesto. "We are going to take up hyper local projects like solid waste management and segregation, last mile connectivity to the metro station, smart road technology, sports and parking complexes among other things to give back Malleswaram its heritage. These are the issues which are not being addressed by the present MLA," he said.

'Eddelu Karnataka' makes appeal to voters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Eddelu Karnataka, a group of writers and activists, including Devanur Mahadeva, G.N. Devy, and Yogendra Yadav, have issued an appeal to the people of the State to defeat the BJP in the upcoming elections.

Eddelu Karnataka issued three guidelines in their appeal: no vote must be wasted, care must be taken to ensure votes must not be divided, and only candidate who is best placed to defeat BJP should be voted.

The coalition termed the last four years of BJP rule in the State as "unprecedented dark days", when the government "looted 40%, caused price rise, and created enmity between religious groups disrupting the social fabric of the State." Expressing confidence that the people of the State have already decided to reject the BJP, the coalition said it was not enough though. "It is our responsibility to defeat the BJP in such a way that they do not come back to the market to buy MLAs," the coalition's statement said.

Mr. Mahadeva said that the people of the State had become more aware than ever and were questioning the incumbent government. "More than who will win in the elections, we need to ensure that this BJP government is defeated. We need to later continue our fight with whoever wins the elections for public good," he said, adding this meant that in most places people had to vote for the Congress, but if a JD(S) candidate was better placed to defeat a BJP candidate then people must vote for JD(S) in such constituencies.

Will campaign for JD(S) candidate in Mandya: HDD

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Amidst JD(S) faced rebellion in its stronghold in Mandya, former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda on Tuesday said he will campaign for the party's official candidate in Mandya and added that he will put in his best possible efforts for the candidate's victory..

Speaking to reporters after his campaign for the candidate in Periyapatna in Mysuru, he said the people of Mandya are aware of his contributions to the district. The programmes that he gave will be taken into consideration for the people blessing the JD(S) candidate.

Five from city drown in canal in Mandya

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Five persons, including a 10-year-old child, belonging to two families from Bengaluru drowned in the Visvesvaraya canal at Doddakottagere village near Basaralu in Mandya taluk on Tuesday.

The tragedy struck when the five members, who had come to their relative's place for a holiday at Hellegere from Neelasandra in Bengaluru, went to the canal for a swim.

Reports reaching here said Tasmiya, 22, Afika, 22, Ashraf, 28, Anisha Begum, 34, and Mehtaab, 10, went to the canal located close to their village.

On seeing Mehtaab drowning, others went to the child's rescue, but they too got caught in the swirling waters and drowned, according to the police.

Fire Services personnel retrieved three bodies from the canal. The search for the other two bodies was under way with the help of locals and fishermen till evening. The team will resume the search on Wednesday.

The post-mortem was done in Mandya hospital.

A large number of people gathered at the spot on learning about the incident. Basaralu police have registered a case.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that we are investigating the right, title, interest, benefits, entitlements of whatsoever nature of the owner of the Survey Number, as mentioned herein below, situated at, Vishwanathapura Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, which is more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written and hereinafter called **"Schedule Property".**

ALL persons including an individual anybody under law, having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof are hereby requested to inform the same in writing, supported with the original documents, to the undersigned having their office at No.115/58, 1st Floor, 2nd Main Road, 6th Cross, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560 018 within a period of ***07 (seven) days*** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing **Survey No. 69/4, measuring 01 Acre 15 Guntas,** situated at **Vishwanathapura Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk,** and bounded as follows:

East by: Survey No. 68/2;
West by: Survey Nos. 69/3 and 69/5;
North by: Survey No. 72;
South by: Soluru Village Boundary;

Sd/-
Mr. Madhusudhana H.R, *Advocate,*
No.115/58, 1st Floor, 2nd Main Road, 6th Cross, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560 018.
Phone: +91 98451 92477
Bangalore Dated : 25.04.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients propose to purchase the below mentioned property from **Dr. T.Arun Kumar S/o Sri. T. Subramanyam Naidu, Aged 45 Years, R/at House No. 27, Srinivasa Lane, Near NRI Layout, R.M.Nagar, Bangalore - 560016.** Persons objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right in the scheduled property may lodge their objections and / or claims, with undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **7 (Seven) days** from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and my clients will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property as if there are no claimants/objections in whatsoever manner.

S C H E D U L E

All that piece and parcel of the property **Western Portion of the Site No. 146, House List Katha No. 227/4, situated at Kalkere Village, K.R.Pura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now coming under the purview of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30ft., and North to South 52ft., in all measuring 1560 sq.ft.,** and bounded on:

East by : Remaining Portion of the Site No. 146,
West by : Remaining Portion of the Site No. 147
North by : 30ft., Wide Road
South by : Private Property.

A.M.BALAJI & ASHWINI.K.B.
Advocates and Property Consultants
Seerpu Law Chambers, Ground Floor Sri. Lakshmi Venkateshwara Nilaya", No. 20, 4th Cross, Ashirwad Layout, Varanasi @ Jinkethimmanahalli, Bangalore-560036. Mob: 9980521406

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

RUBY THOMAS
wife of the **late Major PA Thomas** and a war widow for nearly 58 years, passed away peacefully at the age of 87 in Aluva, Kerala on **Sunday, April 23, 2023.**
She was born on June 23, 1935 to the late Reverend TG Koshy and Anna Koshy.
She is survived by her siblings, Captain TK Joseph, her sister Susy George and T Eapen Koshy.
She was much loved by her three daughters -
Rema, Nina and Deepa and sons-in-law Tony, Mon & Ashok,
cherished by her seven grandchildren -
Christopher, Benjamin, Jacob, Thomas, Philip, Sarah and Alex, as well as two great-grandchildren, Roman and Kaia.
She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.
A service will be held at 9am on Thursday, April 27 at St. Peter's & St. Paul's Orthodox Church, New Colony, St. Thomas Nagar, Koyambedu, Chennai, followed by the funeral service at 10am at the Kilpauk Cemetery in Chennai.
If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. | Romans 14:8

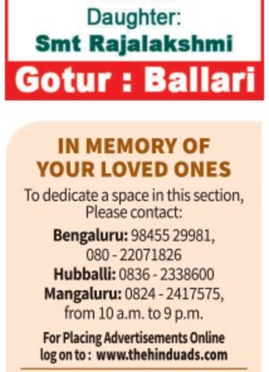
DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

7TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

JAGADAMMA & KRISHNA PILLAI
"Acha and Amma we miss you terribly"
Remembered by: Loving Daughter and Grand Daughter

REMEMBRANCE

20th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



In fond rememberance of our beloved father
SRI GOTUR MAHAREDDY SEETHARAMA REDDY
Your ideals will always be an inspiration to us. You will always be in our memories, prayers and hearts.
Sons:
G.M.P. Reddy IPS
DGP & IGP (Retd.)
Former State Information Commissioner, West Bengal
G M Mallikarjuna Reddy
Auditor
G M Ravi Rajashekar Reddy
Advocate
Daughter:
Smt Rajalakshmi
Gotur : Ballari

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Means of living: Online food delivery workers organise a protest march to the Swiggy office in Ernakulam in 2022. THULASI KAKKAT

On the Code on Social Security for platform-based gig workers

The labour codes passed in 2020 acknowledge gig workers as new occupational categories in the making, in a bid to keep India's workforce secure as it embraces 'new kinds of work'. But the question is whether these codes have enabled workers to ask for the pay they were promised?

Aditi Surie

The Ashok Gehlot led Rajasthan government has recently announced the Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023, which has stringent provisions against errant aggregators as well as various welfare policies. This article dated October 8, 2020, by Aditi Surie, talks about the Union government's Code on Social Security for gig workers which doles out benefits and not rights.

The new Code on Social Security allows a platform worker to be defined by their vulnerability – not their labour, nor the vulnerabilities of platform work.

Swiggy workers have been essential during the pandemic. Even so, they have faced a continuous dip in pay and no rewards for being essential workers. During the last six months, many platform workers have unionised under the All India Gig Workers Union and have protested day in and day out, deploring Swiggy for reducing their base pay from ₹35 to ₹10 per delivery order.

It has been truly remarkable to see the 'food delivery' identity being developed through collective action, just as that of Uber and Ola taxi drivers has been taking shape for a few years now. Stable terms of earning have been a key demand of delivery-persons and drivers through years of protests.

The three new labour codes passed by Parliament recently acknowledge platform and gig workers as new occupational categories in the making, in a bid to keep India's young workforce secure as it embraces 'new kinds of work', like delivery, in the digital economy.

But do the codes let Swiggy workers ask for the pay that they were promised? No.

What a platform worker is allowed to claim as rights, responsibilities and working conditions that can be legally upheld is the key question in these codes, such as for factory workers, who have been an important industrial element in India and around the world. The specific issues of working in factories, the duration of time needed on a factory floor, and associated issues are recognised as the parameters for defining an ideal worker under most labour laws, and this has not shifted much.

Defining an 'employee'

The Code on Wages, 2019, tries to expand this idea by using 'wages' as the primary definition of who an 'employee' is. The wage relationship is an important relationship in the world of work, especially in the context of a large informal economy. Even so, the terms 'gig worker', 'platform worker' and 'gig economy' appear elsewhere in the Code on Social Security.

Since the laws are prescriptive, what is written within them creates the limits to what rights can be demanded, and how these rights can be demanded. Hence, the categories and where they appear become key signs for understanding what kind of identity different workers can have under these new laws. Platform delivery people can claim benefits, but not labour rights. This distinction makes them beneficiaries of State programmes. This does not allow them to go to court to demand better and stable pay, or regulate the algorithms that assign the tasks. This also means that the government or courts cannot pull up platform companies for their choice of pay, or how long they ask people to work.

The main role of the laws for a 'platform worker' is to make available benefits and safety nets from the government or platform companies. Even though platforms are part of the idea of how work will evolve in the future, the current laws do not see them as future industrial workers.

No guarantees

In the Code on Social Security, 2020, platform workers are now eligible for benefits like maternity benefits, life and disability cover, old age protection, provident fund, employment injury benefits, and so on. However, eligibility does not mean that the benefits are guaranteed. None of these are secure benefits, which means that from time to time, the Central government can formulate welfare schemes that cover these aspects of personal and work security, but they are not guaranteed. Actualising these benefits will depend on the political will at the Central and State government-levels and how unions elicit political support.

For some States like Karnataka, where a platform-focused social security scheme was in the making last year, this will possibly offer some financial assistance by the Centre. However, that is not assured. The language in the Code is open enough to imply that platform companies can be called upon to contribute either solely or with the government to some of these schemes. But it does not force the companies to contribute towards benefits or be responsible for workplace issues.

The 'platform worker' identity has the potential to grow in power and scope, but it will be mediated by politicians, election years, rates of under-employment, and large, investment- heavy technology companies that are notorious for not complying with local laws.

But there are no guarantees for better and more stable days for platform workers, even though they are meant to be 'the future of work'.

Aditi Surie is a researcher focusing on technology and the informal economy. She works at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements in Bengaluru.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The Chernobyl disaster was a nuclear accident that occurred on April 26, 1986, in the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. A quiz on nuclear accidents from across the world

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
The Chernobyl nuclear disaster is one of the two nuclear energy accidents rated at seven — the maximum severity — on the International Nuclear Event Scale. Which is the other one?

QUESTION 2
Considered the worst accident in U.S. commercial nuclear power plant history, this incident led to the release of radioactive gases and radioactive iodine into the environment. The film *The China Syndrome* was released 12 days before this incident. Identify the incident.

QUESTION 3
He was a house painter who was subjected to an involuntary human radiation experiment and survived the highest known accumulated radiation dose in any human. Identify the person known as the most radioactive human ever. He was injected with which radioactive element?

QUESTION 4
Two nuclear accidents occurred in 1957, in the U.K., and the Soviet Union. Name them.

QUESTION 5
This intergovernmental organisation seeking to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy was established in 1957. The speech by then-U.S. President D. Eisenhower created the ideological background for this organisation. What is the name of the speech and the organisation?

Visual question:
Identify this singer. He recorded a song addressing the destruction of the planet by pollution and industry, and the Chernobyl disaster was a direct influence on the lyrics. What is the name of the song?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The name of Apple's virtual assistant. **Ans: Siri**
2. The co-founders of Apple Inc along with Steve Jobs. **Ans: Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne**
3. The name of Apple's first portable music player. **Ans: iPod**
4. What was Project Purple? **Ans: The codename for the original iPhone development project**
5. The director of *Steve Jobs,* a 2015 biographical drama film. **Ans: The movie was directed by Danny Boyle and written by Aaron Sorkin**
Visual: The name of the director of Apple's famous television commercial, 1984. **Ans: Ridley Scott. 1984 was an allusion to George Orwell's novel *1984*, which depicted a dystopian future in which people were controlled by a totalitarian government.**
Early Birds: Akshay Kumar Khanna| M. Suresh Kumar| Indra Sharma| Dipankar Baidya

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. N. J. Rao, Indian Institution of Plant Engineers, Andhra Pradesh Chapter, Hyderabad, writes: "Sir, the word 'logistics' has come a long way since the Second World War which elevated it to mean a military strategy to move men and material to locations in the most efficient manner and also to keep them at the highest degree of efficiency. The Society of Logistics Engineers (SOLE) of U.S. defines 'logistics' as "the art and science of management, engineering and technical activities concerned with requirements, design, supply and maintaining resources to support objectives, plans and operations."

Thank you, sir, for throwing more light on the word."

"Mr. A. K. Swaminathan, 6, SB Colony, Kanchipuram, wants to know the meaning of the sentence 'He is a cog in the wheel.'"

"It means that he is an unimportant person. A cog 'is one of a series of teeth on a wheel that transfers motion by locking into the teeth of another wheel.' Each cog contributes to the movement of the wheel, but no cog is more important or less important. All are equal. When a person is referred to as a cog in the wheel, it means that he works like anyone else, but is not an important person.

I am a cog in the wheel of this company."

"Mr. G. Bala Kishan Gupta. 7-1-373/1, MM Thota, Karimnagar, wants to know the meaning of 'vis-a-vis'."

"'Vis-a-vis' is a French expression meaning 'face to face'. It is applied to persons facing one another, as in a train or bus.

The two groups sat vis-a-vis in the bus.

He found himself vis-a-vis a policeman at the party.

It is also the old name for a carriage with seats facing each other. When it is used figuratively, it means 'in relation to', 'with regard to.' In fact, it is in this sense that the term is generally used these days.

The Assembly discussed its powers vis-a-vis the court.

It also means 'the opposite number,' 'counterpart'.

The Maharashtra Education Minister will be conferring with his vis-a-vis in Andhra Pradesh next week.

In American English, 'vis-a-vis' has an additional meaning. It means 'a partner at a social function'.

Her vis-a-vis at the party was strikingly handsome.

'Vis-a-vis' is pronounced 'veezavi'. The two i's are pronounced like the 'ea' in 'heal'. The 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'. It is also pronounced like the 'a' in 'part'. The final 's' in the second 'vis' is silent. The stress is on the first syllable 'vis'.

Published in The Hindu on October 20, 1987

Word of the day

Careen:
pitching dangerously to one side; walk as if unable to control one's movements; move sideways or in an unsteady way

Synonyms: sway, tilt, rock, stagger, reel, lurch, swag, keel, shift, tilt, wobble

Usage: *The ship careened out of control*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/careenpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kəˈɹiːn/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

As poll campaigning intensifies, demand for helicopters soars

Helicopter rental firms say they are receiving queries from political parties and individual politicians who are in the fray

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

With the election campaign in the State gathering steam ahead of the polls next month, helicopter rental firms and charter flight operators are in demand for their air assets. As candidates and star campaigners are expected to crisscross across the State, helicopters and charter flights are the preferred mode of transport.

Apart from Bengaluru-based companies, operators from other states too are likely to fly charter flights and helicopters during the campaign. FILE PHOTO

Requests pour in

Helicopter rental firms said that they are already receiving queries from political parties and individual politicians who are in the fray.

"Three main political parties the BJP, Congress and the JD(S) have approached us and their leaders are already using our helicopters. We expect the demand for our services will increase as campaigning intensifies in the next few days," said Jees George, director, Golden Eagle Aviation.

Urban Air Mobility company, BLADE India said they have been getting queries and would be providing their services in the coming days. "As a helicopter service, BLADE gets queries from time to time for campaigns. Being an asset light company, we use Bell 407, Airbus H125 and H130 for our services. Our helicopters typically have a capacity of 4-5 passengers," said an official from BLADE India.

Apart from Bengaluru-based companies, operators from other states too are likely to fly charter flights and helicopters during the campaign.

Guidelines to be followed

Typically, a single engine helicopter can be hired for ₹1.5 lakh for one hour and a twin engine chopper can be hired for ₹2.75 lakh per hour.

The operators have to follow rules laid down by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). There are do's and don'ts which they have to follow during the election season.

"For Ministers and senior politicians there are some guidelines. There is a requirement that they should only fly in twin engine helicopters or aircraft. Besides, the pilots handling VIP flights should have a certain number of flying hours on a particular type of aircraft or helicopter. Only those qualified with these numbers can pilot flights carrying VIPs," said Mr. George.

"The distance between the destinations is usually about an hour. After we land, the politicians go for their campaigns and rallies which usually lasts a few hours during which time we check for any anomalies in the machine and ensure that everything is in order for the return sortie," said a helicopter pilot.

Chain-snatcher arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Girinagar police have arrested a body builder turned chain-snatcher and his companion on Tuesday and recovered gold chains worth ₹6 lakh and two bikes used by them to commit crimes.

The accused have been identified as Syed Basha, 34, and his accomplice Sheikh Ayub, 32, from Ravindra Nagar, Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh.

Bhasha worked as a cab driver in Kuwait from 2005 to 2015, and was involved in gold smuggling while he was based there Kuwait, the police said. However, on his return to Andhra Pradesh, he took to chain-snatching. There are over 20 cases pending against him in Hyderabad. He was also a body builder and had won the Mr. Andhra Pradesh title. He had taken to chain-snatching to fund his vices and lavish lifestyle, police said.

Scooter driver killed in accident at Nayandahalli junction

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A scooter rider was killed when a speeding lorry rammed into his vehicle at Nayandahalli Junction on Tuesday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Mohammed Rafeeq, 20, hailing from Raichur. The pillion rider Gorak, 19, from Uttar Pradesh, is being treated at a private hospital.

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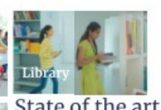

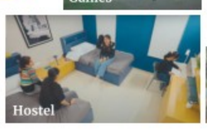

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For more details on age, educational qualification, experience etc., please read the vacancy notification on CSL website **www.cochinshipyard.in (Career page→HCSL, Kolkata). Last date of receipt of online application is 20 May 2023.**

"Hindi version of detailed advertisement is published on the website (www.cochinshipyard.in) of CSL"

Sd/-
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For HCSL

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1	Deputy Manager (Naval Architect)	E2	1 Post (UR)
2	Deputy Manager (Mechanical)		2 Posts (1 UR, 1 OBC)
3	Deputy Manager (Electrical)		1 Post (UR)
4	Assistant Manager (Electrical)	E1	1 Post (UR)
5	Assistant Manager (Safety)		1 Post (UR)
6	Assistant Manager (Finance)		1 Post (UR)
	Total		7 Posts (6 UR, 1 OBC)

For more details on age, educational qualification, experience etc, please read the vacancy notification on CSL website **www.cochinshipyard.in (Career page→ CKSRU, Kolkata). Last date of receipt of online application is 20 May 2023.**

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Date & Time	Location	Hotel Name	Venue & Venue Contact No.
30-04-2023 (Sunday) 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM	Kochi	IBIS Hotel	Padma Junction, MG Road, Kochi. Ph. 91-4847137137
	Coimbatore	Zone by the Park Coimbatore	33/3, 39, Avinashi Road, Lakshmi Mills, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Ph. 0422-4005000
07-05-2023 (Sunday) 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM	Chennai	Hotel Ramada	Gandhi Irwin Road, Ansari Estate, Egmore. Ph. 044-46104777
	Trichy	Hotel Rathna Residency	Opp to KPN Travels No.4, Trichy-Dindigul Road, Near central bus stand, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu. Ph. 0431-2405500
14.05.2023 (Sunday) 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM	Hyderabad	Best Western Ashoka Hotel	Best Western Ashoka Progressive Hotels Pvt. Ltd., 6-1-70, Lakdi ka pul, Hyderabad. Cell: +91 7306000222

Contact - Job Details : Assistant Registrar - 8500444991

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Human Resources	55
Marketing	17

In addition to applying for the examination of UGC - NET June 2023 cycle, candidates will also have to apply separately through ONLINE portal of IndianOil which will go LIVE after UGC - NET June 2023 cycle results are declared. Visit the link below to know the latest updates about this recruitment.

Scan this QR Code for more details or visit career's section of IndianOil at ***https://www.iocl.com/latest-job-opening***

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EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION
No: CMRL/HR/CON/06/2023 dated 26-04-2023

CMRL invites applications from qualified & experienced personnel for appointment of the following posts on contract basis:-

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01	DGM (Civil)	01	Rs.90,000/-	13	40
02	DGM (VAC & TVS)	01			
03	Manager / DGM (E&M)	01	Rs. 80,000/- to Rs.90,000/-	7 - 13	38 - 40
04	Manager / DGM (Contract Management)	02			
05	Manager (Contract Procurement)	01	Rs. 80,000/-	7	38
06	Manager (Safety)	01			
07	AM / DM / Manager (E&M)	02	Rs. 60,000/- to Rs.80,000/-	2 - 7	30 - 38
08	DM / Manager (Architect)	01	Rs. 70,000/- to Rs.80,000/-	4 - 7	35 - 38
09	AM / DM (Civil)	05	Rs.60,000/- to Rs.70,000/-	2 - 4	30 - 35
10	AM / DM (Design)	02			
11	AM (Electronics/Electrical/Mechanical)	03	Rs.60,000/-	02	30
12	AM (HR)	01			

Note:
I. Please note the detailed employment notification will be published in CMRL website vide URL: **https://chennaimetrorail.org** on or before 28-04-2023.
ii. Last date for receipt of application is 25-05-2023.

DIPR/412/Display/2023 — **Additional General Manager (HR)**

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Priyanka Gandhi accuses BJP govt. of looting ₹1.5 lakh crore from State

This election is neither about Narendra Modi nor about any leader from any party, says the Congress leader, at a public meeeting in Mysuru district, while calling upon voters to ensure that the focus of the polls remains on welfare of the people

Laiqh A. Khan
T. NARSIPUR (MYSURU DIST.)

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accused the BJP government in Karnataka of looting ₹1.5 lakh crore from the State and called upon people to vote out the 'corrupt' government in the Assembly elections on May 10.

Addressing a public meeting at T. Narsipur in Mysuru district, Ms. Gandhi brought up the allegations of the BJP government demanding '40% commission' from contractors, and accused the regime of 'shamelessly' and 'insensitively' looting the State.

"Do you know what could have been done with ₹1.5 lakh crore," she asked the gathering before claiming, "the money could be used to build 100 AIIMS (All India Institute Medical Sciences) hospitals, 2,250 km of six-lane expressway, 30,000 smart classrooms, 750 km of metro train lines, or 30 lakh affordable houses for the poor," she said.

"Instead, where is the ₹1.5 lakh crore that is being looted going? It is going to their big industrialist friends and their party leaders," she alleged, while claiming that the poor people of the State were kept in poverty.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi taking part in a roadshow at Krishnarajnagar in Mysuru district on Tuesday; (right) Ms. Gandhi waves to the public after addressing a rally at T. Narsipur. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT & M.A. SRIRAM

She said that the BJP did not get a mandate in the last Assembly elections, but came to power in Karnataka through 'dishonest' means by spending money. The BJP government, which came to power on the basis of 'greed for power', went on taking decisions that were 'marked by greed', she alleged.

Modi the election issue?

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reported remark that Opposition leaders were 'busy digging his grave', Ms. Gandhi said: "There is nobody in the country who does not wish good health for the Prime Minister, and he lead a long life. But, I wish to ask if this is an election issue?"

She questioned BJP leaders about their failure to raise issues affecting the people, like rise in prices of essential commodities and unemployment. She called upon the people to ensure that the focus of the coming elections remains on the welfare of the people. "This election is neither about Mr. Modi nor about any leader from any party," she said. She told the gathering that the polls are about the welfare of the people of Karnataka, their livelihood, and their pride.

Apart from accusing the BJP of hatching a conspiracy to weaken the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), which markets Nandini brand of products, to prepare the ground for entry of Gujarat-based milk cooperative Amul, Ms. Gandhi also accused the BJP government of failing to approve the Karnataka flag.

"The Karnataka flag is the symbol of Karnataka's pride. But, the BJP government has not approved it till now," she said.

The gathering included Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, former Ministers H.C. Mahadevappa and Tanveer Sait, and MLA Yathindra Siddaramaiah.

Invoking Indira

Later, speaking to a gathering of women at Hanur in the border district of Chamarajanagar, Ms. Gandhi invoked former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi while trying to strike a chord with them.

When voices from the crowd mentioned the name of Indira Gandhi to her poser on why they could trust her, as she was speaking to them for the first time, Ms. Gandhi said people had in the past placed their trust in leaders like Indira Gandhi, who did not betray their faith.

Ms. Gandhi said she was enjoying the trust of people because of the contribution made by the late Prime Minister and other Congress leaders including her father, the late Rajiv Gandhi.

Modi to virtually interact with 50 lakh BJP workers across Karnataka tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact through virtual mode with about 50 lakh workers of the BJP in poll-bound Karnataka on Thursday.

Announcing this at a press conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday, BJP State election management committee convener and Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje said the virtual interaction would start at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday.

It would be held at 58,112 booths and 1,680 places at the zilla panchayat level. The Prime Minister will reply to individual queries by party workers at 15 places in the State, she said, and noted that about 24 lakh party workers had downloaded the "Modi app" for participating in the interaction.

The party is expecting this will build a tempo for the Prime Minister's multiple visits scheduled later to address the poll conventions.

Shah at Terdal

Meanwhile, speaking at Terdal of Bagalkot district, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said if the Congress were to come to power, there would be "communal violence and riots across the State." He claimed there would be large-scale corruption and there will not be any development.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah trying his hand at a loom, at a public meeting at Terdal, Bagalkot district, on Tuesday. PTI

> Some Lingayat leaders have left the BJP and the Congress hopes to gain from their entry. But that will never happen.
>
> **AMIT SHAH**
> Union Minister

Mr. Shah said that the BJP's electoral prospects will not be affected in any way with Lingayat leaders Jagadish Shettar and Laxman Savadi leaving the party. "A leader or two leaving will not affect us," he said at a rally.

"Some Lingayat leaders have left the BJP and the Congress is hoping to gain from their entry. But that will never happen. The Congress is a party that has always insulted Lingayats. All through its reign, only two Lingayats, S. Nijalingappa and Veerendra Patil, were made Chief Ministers. Even they were humiliated and removed later. But the Congress is talking about the BJP not treating Lingayat leaders well," he said.

He defended the BJP move to scrap quota for Muslims, as reservation based on religion is unconstitutional. "We have increased the quota of Lingayats, Vokkaligas, OBCs, and SCs and STs. No one has attempted it earlier," he said.

"The Congress State president is going around saying they will reinstate Muslim reservation if they came to power. I want to ask him, how will you do it? Will you snatch the quota from the Lingayats, Vokkaligas, OBCs, or SCs and STs to do it?" Mr. Shah said.

Congress hits out at govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While the Karnataka government got an adjournment in the Supreme Court in the reservation case, after assuring the court to make no appointments or admissions under the March 27 Government Order, Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh hit out at the Basavaraj Bommailed government saying it was unable to defend its own on providing reservation for Veerashaiva-Lingayats and Vokkaligas.

In a press release, Mr. Vallabh alleged that the BJP and the Bommai government have committed an "unpardonable sin once again by failing to file a reply affidavit in Supreme Court."

Eshwarappa favours C.T. Ravi for CM's post

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Former Minister and senior BJP leader K.S. Eshwarappa expressed his wishes that BJP national general secretary C.T. Ravi become the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

Addressing a party workers' meeting at Nidughatta near Chikkamagaluru, Mr. Eshwapappa said he wished that Mr. Ravi was elected with a huge margin and became the Chief Minister. He made this statement a day after Mr. Ravi expressed his wish to become the Chief Minister.

Mr. Eshwarappa repeated his statement that the BJP didn't want votes from Muslims. "I said this yesterday and I will repeat the same. I am confident that nationalist Muslims are with the BJP. However, we don't want the support of anti-nationals," he said.

K.S. Eshwarappa

The BJP leader made the statement a day after Mr. Ravi expressed his wish to become the CM

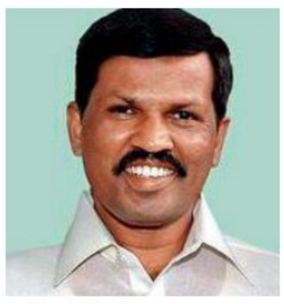
Rebellion trouble continues as Independents stay in the fray

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rebellion has turned out to be a headache for political parties in the Assembly elections, as several disappointed ticket aspirants have remained in the fray even after the deadline for withdrawal of nominations ended on April 24.

The BJP is facing rebellion in 16 Assembly constituencies.

They say that even the Congress is facing such a situation in 18 Assembly seats and the other Opposition JD(S) too is not bereft of the problem as it faces rebellion in four constituencies.



Gulihatti Shekar

The constituencies where the BJP is facing rebellion include Bailahongal where disappointed ticket aspirant and sitting MLA Vishwanath Patil is in the fray, Channagiri where Madal Mallikarjuna, son of MLA Madal Virupakshappa, has entered the fray as an Independent, and Hosadurga, where sitting MLA Gulihatti Shekar is contesting as an Independent after being denied ticket by the party.

As Independents

Several former MLAs, who did not get ticket this time, too have turned out to be a problem for the BJP in some of the seats as they have remained in the fray as Independents.

Such seats include Gandhinagar, where former Minister and ex-MLA Krishnaiah Setty is an Independent candidate, Tumakuru, where former Minister and ex-MLA is taking on the party official candidate, and Kundagol where former MLA S.I. Chikkangouda is facing the poll battle as an Independent.

The other seats where the BJP is facing rebellion are Karwar, Afzalpur, Ranebennur, Holalkere, Bagalkote, Nagamangala, Kollegal, Puttur, and Koratagere.

The BJP, which also has to fight anti-incumbency this time, is concerned that the presence of rebels in some seats may turn out to be tricky where the poll competition is intense.

The party leaders are reported to be still trying to convince some of the rebels to retire from contest. At the same time, the party is prepared to take on rebels in some seats where its organisational network is strong.

AIDWA asks women to choose wisely

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) has given a call to women to choose wisely and vote for a secular party. In a 24-page booklet brought out ahead of the polls, the organisation has highlighted key people's issues, particularly of women.

Accusing the ruling government of trying to take away women's rights, K.S. Vimala of AIDWA said: "In the booklet we have listed the failures of the ruling dispensation in every sector and have called upon women to be aware of the BJP constantly trying to divide society in the name of religion and caste."

Puttur: It is BJP vs. 'Hindutva' in this coastal Assembly constituency

Raviprasad Kamila
MANGALURU

A Sangh Parivar activist remaining in the fray as an Independent is making the BJP sweat it out to retain its seat in Puttur Assembly constituency in Dakshina Kannada.

It is the only one among 19 Assembly constituencies in coastal Karnataka where the BJP is facing a rebel from its own cadre. Earlier, former Chief Minister and former Union minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda had won the Assembly elections from this constituency twice. Former Congress Minister Vinay Kumar Sorake too had won twice.

The Parivar has its deep roots in the constituency which is also the operational area of Karnataka BJP president Nalin Kumar Kateel who hails from Kunjady, near Puttur, though his native place falls under the neighbouring Sullia Assembly constituency. The centre-stage of debate in the constituency is not BJP vs. Congress but BJP vs. 'Hindutva' which is being represented by Parivar activist and Independent candidate Arun Kumar Puthila. His contest is an unexpected development for the BJP. Mr. Puthila, who was an aspirant for BJP ticket, jumped into the fray after it was denied.

The activist and his supporters are angry that the BJP chose former Dakshina Kannada Zilla Panchayat president Asha Thimmappa Gowda, 65, as its candidate purely on the basis of "caste equations" to continue the "caste quota" of sitting MLA Sanjeeva Matandoor, who hails from Gowda community. They argue that the BJP should have exhibited prudence by coming out of the caste calculations. Mr. Puthila's supporters have projected him as the upholder and protector of "Hindutva". Several rounds of talks by the BJP and Sangha Parivar leaders failed to convince Mr. Puthila to withdraw from the fray.

Now the BJP is trying hard to ensure that its votes do not get divided between Ms. Gowda and Mr. Puthila paving the way for the victory of Congress candidate Ashok Kumar Rai, 53, who is a novice in the grand old party. Mr. Rai who was with the BJP for long switched over to the Congress just ahead of the announcement of elections and managed to get party ticket.

The BJP did face a similar situation in the constituency earlier. Its two former MLAs, the late K. Rama Bhat and T. Shakuntala Shetty, who won from the BJP in 2004, revolted against the party when it denied ticket to Ms. Shetty in the 2008 elections. She contested as an Independent and lost. Bhat, who was one of the leaders who built the BJP in the coastal belt, supported Ms. Shetty by forming Swabhimani Vedike. Ms. Shetty secured 25,171 votes (20.4%) and the BJP candidate Mallika Prasad who won got 46,605 (37.77%) votes.

Murder accused contests poll

On the other hand, the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) has fielded Shafi Bellare, 41, an accused in the BJP Yuva Morcha leader Praveen Nettaru murder case, as its candidate from the constituency.

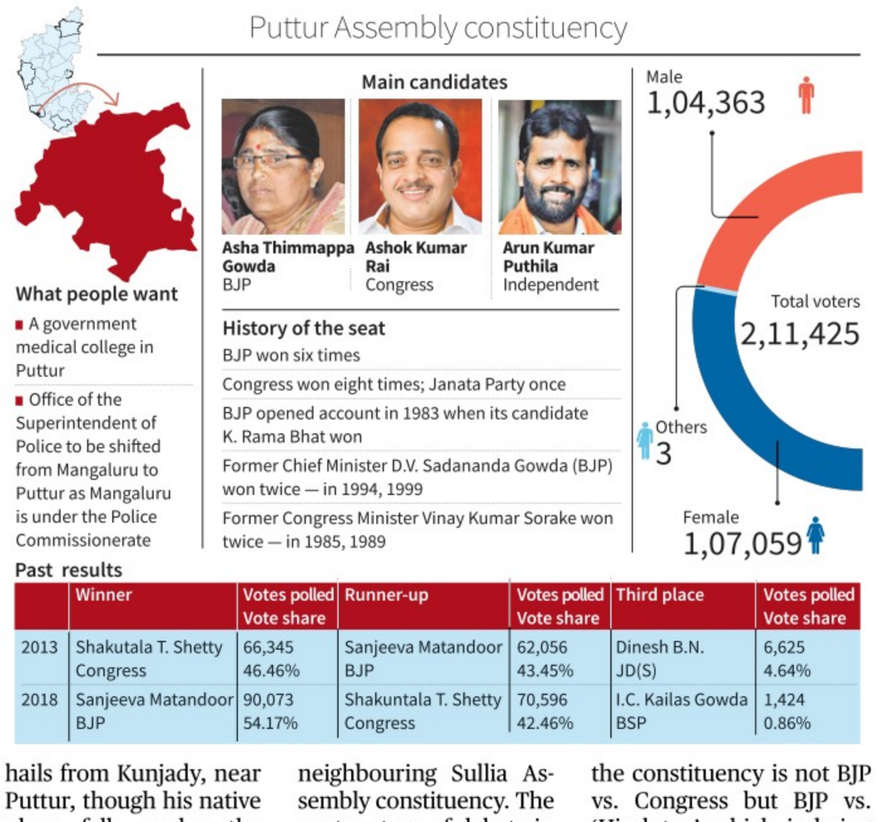
Mr. Bellare, who is in jail, is accused number 9 in last year's murder case which is being investigated by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

In all, eight candidates are in the fray. Others include two Independents, a candidate each from JD(S), AAP, and Karnataka Rashtra Samithi.

The constituency is dominated by arecanut plantations. Puttur is a prominent arecanut trading centre after Mangaluru. Farmers have given priority to cultivating rubber after arecanut. The Rubber Board has its regional office in Puttur town which also has the Directorate of Cashew Research, under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The only chocolate factory managed by the cooperative sector in the State is in this constituency. The factory belongs to the Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative Ltd. (Campco). The house of Jnanapith awardee Kota Shivaram Karanth is at 'Balavana' in Puttur town.

The birthplace of Koti and Chennaya, the revered Tuluva twin warrior heroes, is believed to be Padumale under the constituency. The constituency has the highest endosulfan victims in Dakshina Kannada.



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2013	Shakutala T. Shetty Congress	66,345 46.46%	Sanjeeva Matandoor BJP	62,056 43.45%	Dinesh B.N. JD(S)	6,625 4.64%
2018	Sanjeeva Matandoor BJP	90,073 54.17%	Shakuntala T. Shetty Congress	70,596 42.46%	I.C. Kailas Gowda BSP	1,424 0.86%

No scrapping of 4% quota to Muslims till May 9, says SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Karnataka government on Tuesday won an adjournment again in the Supreme Court during the hearing of a petition challenging the State's decision to scrap 4% OBC quota for Muslims and divide it between Vokkaliga and Lingayat castes ahead of the Assembly elections.

Appearing before a Bench led by Justice K.M. Joseph, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the State's assurance in court to make no appointments or admissions under the March 27 government order, which granted the two additional percentage of quota to the two castes, would continue in the meanwhile.

The State had similarly sought an adjournment when the case came up for hearing previously on April 18. The court finally adjourned the case to May 9.

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, for petitioner Ghulam L. Rasool, objected to the adjournment.

"I strongly oppose this. They [State] will again seek adjournment and we will be affected," Mr. Dave protested.

In a hearing on April 13, Justice Joseph had *prima facie* remarked that the State's decision to scrap the quota for Muslims was based on "absolutely fallacious assumptions".

Justice Joseph had pointed out that Muslims, for a very long period, were treated as a 'more backward' community. "They were sandwiched somewhere between the 'most backward' and 'backward' communities. Suddenly you have taken reservation benefits away from them... I have to speak my mind here, so that you can respond... What strikes me as a student of law is that the order is based on absolutely fallacious assumptions," Justice Joseph had orally observed.

Mr. Dave had then argued that the State had removed Muslims from the backward class list and included them under the 'economically weaker sections' category without any empirical data collected or study done to support the move. The March 27 government order to scrap the Muslim quota in the State was based on an "interim" report from the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission.

He had submitted that the inclusion of Muslim community in the EWS list illegally implied that the community was not socially and educationally backward.

Advocate Ravivarma Kumar, for the petitioner side, had added that other minority communities, including Christians, Buddhists, Jain, etc, continue in the backward classes list. "All except Muslims," he said. He had said the State had no power to transfer the community from socially and backward class category to the EWS category.

PM says only a strong Centre can harness power of States

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flags off the Vande Bharat Express train, announces several railway development projects and launches the Kochi Water Metro during his visit to Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Good start: PM Narendra Modi flagging off the Vande Bharat Express train in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. S. MAHINSHA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said only a strong government at the Centre could harness the power of States to spur national development.

Mr. Modi was speaking at a mammoth public meeting at the Central Stadium in Kerala's capital after flagging off the Vande Bharat Express train.

Mr. Modi also announced several railway development projects, launched the Kochi Water Metro, and laid the foundation stone for the Digital Science Park.

Mr. Modi's comment seemed a response to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's welcome speech that stressed the need to preserve and reinforce cooperative federalism.

The outlook of the individual leaders on Centre-State relations assumed political significance against the backdrop of the raging nationwide controversy revolving around the accusations of non-BJP-ruled States that the Union government undermined federalism by trespassing on the jurisdictional powers and fiscal sovereignty of provincial governments.

Mr. Modi seemingly made an election pitch to Kerala voters ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls by underscoring that only a strong Central government marching in lockstep with States could catalyse national development.

He said the Centre had increased its allocation for Kerala's rail development five-fold since the current disposition came to power in 2014.

Mr. Modi said the State would emerge as a lodestar for the entire country if it achieved its development potential.

HC clears decks for defamation suit filed against Subramanian Swamy in Singapore

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court has cleared the decks for Advantage Strategic Consulting Singapore Private Limited to prosecute a defamation suit filed against former Union Minister Subramanian Swamy before the High Court of Singapore for having named it in the Aircel Maxis scam. A Division Bench has set aside an interim injunction granted against the company by a single judge in 2014.

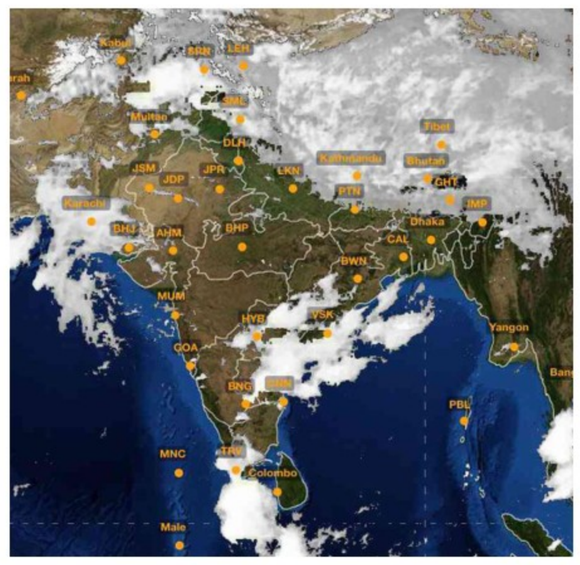
Justices S.S. Sundar and P.B. Balaji allowed the Singapore firm's appeal, pending since 2014, and held that the Madras High Court lacks the jurisdiction to grant an anti-suit injunction against a foreign entity. They said the single judge had granted the injunction just because the appellant company happened to be a subsidiary of Advantage Strategic Consulting Private Limited based in Chennai.

The Division Bench said the Supreme Court had time and again reiterated that a subsidiary should be considered as a distinct entity in relation to its transactions. Despite being fully owned by a parent or holding company, a subsidiary would not lose its identity as a separate legal entity and it could not be considered just as a puppet of the parent company merely because of its administration.

"The judgment of the learned single judge cannot be approved for the simple reason that he has simply presumed that the appellant is amenable to the jurisdiction of this court as it is a subsidiary of the 1st defendant, an Indian company," the Bench wrote.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty wind likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, west Madhya Pradesh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.4	23.5	Kozhikode	—	36.8	27.3
Ahmedabad	—	40.6	21.0	Kurnool	—	39.0	28.0
Aizawl	—	34.5	16.0	Lucknow	5	33.2	16.7
Allahabad	—	34.0	18.8	Madurai	7	35.0	24.1
Bengaluru	—	33.3	23.0	Mangaluru	—	34.0	25.0
Bhopal	—	—	21.7	Mumbai	—	33.0	26.0
Bhubaneswar	1.1	34.8	24.8	Mysuru	—	34.5	24.4
Chandigarh	—	33.5	21.1	New Delhi	—	34.9	20.4
Chennai	3	35.3	25.6	Patna	0.4	35.5	22.2
Coimbatore	—	36.0	25.4	Port Blair	—	33.8	27.7
Dehradun	—	30.6	16.8	Puducherry	26.2	33.2	24.8
Gangtok	—	21.4	12.8	Pune	—	38.9	22.7
Goa	—	33.6	24.0	Raipur	—	35.6	22.2
Guwahati	—	33.6	19.4	Ranchi	—	32.0	19.8
Hubballi	—	38.0	21.0	Shillong	1	22.8	12.8
Hyderabad	—	36.0	24.9	Shimla	—	18.9	10.2
Imphal	—	31.6	17.3	Srinagar	—	23.7	8.3
Jaipur	—	34.7	20.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.2	26.6
Kochi	—	32.6	27.2	Tiruchi	0.4	36.7	27.4
Kohima	—	27.0	18.0	Vijayawada	0.2	36.2	26.9
Kolkata	9	33.6	22.4	Visakhapatnam	—	34.8	24.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.36	..82	.27	78	...125	
Bengaluru	...7	..40	.35	51	68	
Chennai	...3	..60	107	46	42	
Delhi	..—	241	.32	56	...104	
Hyderabad	...8	..10	.11	83	91	
Kolkata	.12	.34	.29	76	83	
Lucknow	...7	..67	.31	83	...101	
Mumbai	..—	9	.88	...182	...153	
Pune	..—	104	.42	...318	...208	
Visakhapatnam	.16	..28	.36	37	59	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sasaram, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 309 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

Three helicopters fly over Tirumala hill temple

The TTD Vigilance and Security officials had some anxious moments when three helicopters flew over the sanctum sanctorum of the hill temple of Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala on Tuesday. Even though the space above the sanctum sanctorum of the hill temple is yet to be officially declared as a no-fly zone, the aviation authorities are instructed to avoid flying over it. The choppers which made three rounds over the temple reportedly belonged to the Air Force and were on their way to Chennai from Kadapa.

CBI officials visit house of Vivekananda Reddy's driver

A team of Central Bureau of Investigation officials arrived in Pulivendula town in Andhra Pradesh in connection with the investigation into the murder of former MP Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy. According to the information, the officials visited the house of Shaik Dastagiri, who worked as a driver of Vivekananda Reddy and later turned approver in the case. They inquired about the security cover provided to him. The officials were said to have suggested to Dastagiri to remain cautious and contact them immediately in case he faced any trouble. The officials are expected to stay put in Pulivendula for a few days.

Film bodies not to cooperate with actors Nigam and Bhasi

Various organisations in the Malayalam film industry on Tuesday decided not to cooperate with actors Shane Nigam and Sreenath Bhasi alleging that they were creating problems at shooting locations. A joint meeting of the Kerala Film Producers' Association, Film Employees Federation of Kerala, and Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes here stated that the actors would be permitted to complete their ongoing movies. Afterwards, producers could engage them at their own risk.

Rare occurrence

Time to learn: Science enthusiasts gathered to observe Zero Shadow Day at Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru on Tuesday. During the rare celestial phenomenon, which occurred at 12.17 p.m., the sun was directly overhead, and the shadow of vertical objects disappeared for a brief period of time. K. MURALI KUMAR

Sharmila released on conditional bail

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

YSR Telangana Party president Y.S. Sharmila, who was arrested by the Banjara Hills police on Monday and later remanded in 14-days judicial custody by the Nampally court, was released from the Chanchalguda jail on conditional bail on Tuesday. The court asked her to submit two sureties of ₹30,000 each and get permission in case of foreign travel.

Ms. Sharmila was booked on various charges, including assault on police officers near her residence to restrain her from going to the office of the SIT, which is probing the Telangana State Public Service Commission question paper leak case. The party president was allegedly pushing away police personnel, slapping a woman constable and forcing her driver to move the SUV despite the police obstructing the way. zAfter her release, Ms. Sharmila said the BRS government was "throttling the voice of the Opposition for questioning its failures, and the police was acting at its behest".

Supplementary textbooks to cover deleted portions

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A school curriculum steering committee meeting on Tuesday decided to prepare supplementary textbooks for Plus One and Plus Two higher secondary subjects for which Kerala uses the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks.

The NCERT had recently deleted portions related to history of Mughal courts, references to communal riots in Gujarat in 2002, Hindutva extremists' dislike for Mahatma Gandhi, Naxalite movement, Industrial Revolution, the Cold War, and so on, from its textbooks.

The State government had opposed the NCERT move to drop certain portions, particularly in History, Political Science, Sociology, and Economics. Tuesday's meeting reiterated the State's opposition to what it termed attempts by the Union government to distort history.

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Rescue service

The Sudan evacuation highlights challenges India faces in conflict

As India's "Operation Kaveri", launched to evacuate Indians stuck inside war-torn Sudan is underway, the government is making the most of a 72-hour ceasefire window to bring out about 3,000 civilians. The operation, which involves the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy, is being coordinated by the Ministry of External Affairs. Given the heavy fighting in Khartoum between forces loyal to the head of the ruling council, General Abdel-Fattah al-Burhan, who also heads the Sudanese Armed Forces, and his former deputy, Gen. Mohammed "Hemeti" Hamdan Dagalo of the paramilitary group, RSF, most civilians are being brought by road to Port Sudan, a perilous journey, to be evacuated by air and sea. India has been coordinating efforts with other countries that have the most civilians and resources in Sudan, including the U.S., the U.K., the UAE and Saudi Arabia, on logistics, timing the evacuation operations, and even using Saudi and French planes. En route to the Caribbean for a scheduled visit, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also met with the UN Secretary General in New York to seek help. It is clear that military personnel, officials and diplomats will have a difficult few days ahead given that even humanitarian workers and ambulances have been attacked. They have no doubt been assisted by the cumulative experience of similar operations over the decades, beginning with the largest such single civilian evacuation during the Gulf war, in 1991.

The Sudan evacuation brings once more into focus the particular challenges that India faces in any conflict. With about 14 million non-resident Indians and more than seven million tourists and travellers each year, there is practically no conflict today that does not affect an Indian citizen. Given that many work in the most dangerous environments – examples being students in Ukraine, nurses in Iraq or Yemen, or labourers in Libya, Syria and Lebanon – the responsibility of the government to help those without the means to return to safety is greater. As a result, a standard operating procedure, and even possibly a special force to deal with such crises – as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee for External Affairs, in 2022 – must be considered by the government. It is also essential that such crises be devoid of political grand-standing or finger-pointing, and that unseemly public spats over the evacuation, or unnecessary controversies over garnering domestic political mileage be avoided. India is admired for its reputation and ability to harness all its resources in rescuing every single citizen in any corner of the world, every time they are in need. That reputation must remain intact.

The right to litigate

Use of legal remedies to limit nature's exploitation is at the core of democracy

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) seems to have been overzealous in registering a case against environmental lawyer Ritwick Dutta and his organisation, Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment, for violating Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) provisions. The gist of the allegations is their using foreign funds to encourage litigation that will stall existing and prospective coal-fired plants in India. While the sourcing of foreign funds and use is certainly something to keep an eye on, any criminalising of the act of opposition to coal plants, when pursued via legal means, is an absurd stance for a government to adopt. As a signatory to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and various key agreements, India has undertaken to gradually reduce its reliance on fossil fuel sources and be 'net zero', or source almost all power from non-fossil fuel sources by 2070. India has also consistently endorsed reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that speak of the urgency of ensuring global temperatures do not exceed 1.5°C of pre-industrial times, necessitating that global net anthropogenic CO_2 emissions decline by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030. However, under principles of 'Common and Differentiated Responsibility', India has maintained its right to rely on coal plants in the interim as it is still a developing economy. The true cost of renewable sources (solar, wind and nuclear) remains much more than that of fossil-fuel power. The industrialised West, while slowing its fossil fuel consumption, continues to be reliant on natural gas and keeps falling short on its commitments to transfer technology and finance to developing countries to accelerate clean energy adoption. Thus, coal is a necessary evil, but still evil, and seeing it any other way belies scientific evidence.

India has 28.5 GW of coal power capacity planned and 32 GW of plants are under construction. The commissioning of many has been delayed due to insufficient environment clearances, land acquisition, and redevelopment and rehabilitation-related problems. These, however, follow from rulings by the National Green Tribunal or from a lack of adherence to norms prescribed mainly under provisions of the Environment Protection and related legislation. Funding for new coal plants is increasingly difficult with multilateral funding agencies refusing to fund such plants. Many coal plants run inefficiently and rely on lenient environmental curbs as they are critical to India's power needs. Using legal remedies to limit the industrial exploitation of nature and ensuring just compensation is at the core of a civilised democracy; and efforts at undermining such a fundamental compact bodes ill for India.

The end of ordinary politics

Varghese K. George

When the Indian Constitution was being born, its creators resolved that all further politics would be conducted within its bounds. B.R. Ambedkar said: "... We must abandon the method of civil disobedience, non-cooperation and satyagraha. When there was no way left for constitutional methods for achieving economic and social objectives, there was a great deal of justification for unconstitutional methods."

Politics and a distinction

Political theorists make the distinction between ordinary politics and extraordinary politics. Ordinary politics reproduces instituted order. In extraordinary politics, the sovereign, the people, change the fundamentals and reconstitute the order. The establishment of a new order is deemed to be the 'end of politics' until it is challenged through insurrection. David Held uses the concept of the 'end of politics' to analyse Marxism. "The end of politics (or the end of the era of the state) means the transformation of political life as it had been known ...," with the establishment of communes. Extrapolating, all politics aim for an end of politics.

The founders not merely eschewed civil disobedience but also retained instruments of the imperial legal structure to enforce obedience by the citizenry – from sedition to defamation, which the principal leader against the current regime now stands convicted of. Not everyone agreed to the new Constitutional order; the right and the left of the Indian political spectrum questioned its legitimacy from the very beginning. The manifesto of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in 2009, lamented that "the leaders of independent India ...continued to work with the institutional structures created by the British", which was disconnected from India's "civilisational consciousness". Political mobilisations outside legally defined contours continued in what could be termed "between the boundaries of insurrection and institutional political activity". 'Worse than the British' became a slur that was routinely thrown at the Congress regime by its opponents. Underground armed rebels, separatists, and political insurgents pushed the boundaries of the constitutional order. Conversely, political settlements with various discontented elements also tinkered with the original order. Then Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee would famously state that a resolution to the Kashmir problem would be sought not necessarily within the bounds of the Constitution, but of humanity.

Three points of extraordinary politics are milestones in India's journey to its current Hindutva order – the J.P. Movement, the Ayodhya Movement and the Anna Hazare Movement, all primarily confined to the region above the Vindhyas. What is common between the three is that they mobilised people to overthrow the constitutionally established order through insurrection, and even violence. J.P. called it a Total Revolution.

The 1971 election made Indira Gandhi and the Congress appear unbeatable through institutional mechanism. The response was the Gujarat Navnirman Movement that attacked legislators, followed in Bihar with similar tactics, and, finally, JP's call to the army to disobey the elected government. It culminated in the declaration of Emergency and the suspension of democracy itself. In the second, the Ayodhya movement, the BJP and the Sangh Parivar argued that the popular sovereign cannot be constrained by law that is its creation. The Babri Masjid was demolished in 1992. In the Anna Movement, a new system was sought for the summary punishment of anyone suspected of corruption; the entire parliamentary model of democracy was targeted as illegitimate, and devoid of popular sanction.

In all these three phases of extraordinary politics in India, the Sangh Parivar was a common factor. In fact, it was sequential, one leading to the next, and culminating in the electoral majority of Hindutva, in 2014. Elected Prime Minister, Narendra Modi said India had finally freed itself from "1,200 years of slavery". A new order was being born.

Paradox of order

When order is reconstituted, the instruments of the previous regime are taken over rather than replaced. As it happened at the founding of the Republic, its transition to a Hindutva order was quickly followed by a reframing of what is legitimate politics. The long journey of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act over many decades through various regimes is instructive. Since 2019, individuals, and not only organisations, can be notified as 'terrorist'. Mere association with an illegal outfit makes an individual liable regardless of the commission of any illegal act. The Supreme Court of India told protestors at Shaheen Bagh (2019-20) that they must act within the bounds of law. Any criticism of the government is portrayed as anti-national; restrictions on freedom of expression are enforced for undisclosed national security reasons, and foreign links make any opinion questionable. Simultaneously, the Ayodhya insurrection has been legitimised as a sovereign act through a judicial process, retrospectively.

If institutions and law reproduce entrenched order, change often comes from the grey zones beyond them – from M.K. Gandhi to Rosa Parks, from Nepal Maoists to those who were labelled "eco terrorists" by the U.S. legal system, change and order are often conflicting precepts. Much like those in power use the law and institutions, those who challenge them also can use it, but only to a limited extent. The real challenge can come only through popular mobilisation, extraordinary politics.

If the Hindutva regime deems all politics against it as anti-national, the undermining of the political process has a longer history. It is the celebratory ascent of neoliberalism that labelled politics as an inferior, amoral sphere of collective action. Decision making had to be separated from messy negotiations of representative democracy and public opinion, and new concepts were established. Economy and development questions were deemed beyond politics, and to be decided by unaccountable experts for the sake of 'good governance.'

Civil society organisations were promoted as alternatives to political parties. This was partly an elite response to the deepening of the democratic process that produced subaltern parties and leaders that were not confirming to institutional decorum. Under the United Progressive Alliance, there was an informal 'core committee' that became a super cabinet; the National Advisory Council became another body that worked outside the political system. The Congress outsourced deliberations outside of the party.

Last year, after brainstorming survival strategies, the Congress announced a key idea – to galvanise civil society organisations. An indifference, if not contempt for the electoral process, has now become a badge of higher moral standing in the Congress party. This erosion of the political was demonstrated during the agitation against the farm Bills in 2020-21 – the BJP condemned it as 'political'; its defenders said it was not political. The BJP regime has turned the civil society debate full circle, and has declared it as nothing short of a new "front of war".

In *When Protest Becomes Crime* (2019), Carolijn Terwindt formulates the concept of 'prosecutorial narratives', "which imply the choice of a context, selection and interpretation of the facts, and the choice of certain perpetrators'. For instance, she cites, in 2000, Spain made a law that criminalised sympathy and glorification of ETA, which made routine politics of separatism illegal and prosecutable. Last year, the Jammu and Kashmir police created a case of "narrative terrorism". Essentially, the prosecutor has the capacity to declare the bounds of legitimate politics, as it happened in the case of defamation against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who has been expelled from Parliament.

The battering of the political sphere of action by neoliberalism has been brought to a conclusion by the extraordinary politics of Hindutva. Hindutva is still in the process of consolidation. While it is using existing laws and institutions, for instance, to build the Ram temple in Ayodhya, it has also been made clear that the notion of a basic structure of the Constitution is invalid in the face of the sovereign will. The next moment of extraordinary politics is beyond the horizon at the moment – regardless of the outcome in Karnataka which is going to the polls.

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By delimiting what is legitimate politics, Hindutva has declared the end of an order and the birth of another

Sanskrit as official language, Ambedkar's amendment

Jairam Ramesh

Member of Parliament (Congress), is a student of Indian political history

Justice G.R. Swaminathan of the Madras High Court said recently that B.R. Ambedkar wanted to make Sanskrit the official language of the Indian Union. He is not the first person to say so. Some time ago, the former Chief Justice of India, Sharad Arvind Bobde, had expressed the same view. Predictably, the ecosystem of the current ruling establishment has latched on to these statements to further its appropriation of B.R. Ambedkar.

It is true that on September 10, 1949, B.R. Ambedkar submitted an amendment in the Constituent Assembly that proposed Sanskrit as 'the official language on the Union'. There were 16 signatories who included, apart from B.R. Ambedkar himself, T.T. Krishnamachari, Dr. P. Subbarayan, G. Durgabai, and Dakshayani Velayudhan. All signatories were from non-Hindi speaking provinces.

Many newspapers of September 11, 1949 published news of this amendment. They also reported B.R. Ambedkar testily saying, "What is wrong with Sanskrit", when questioned by the PTI the previous evening about his initiative. This remark suggests something to the amendment other than what Justices Bobde and Swaminathan are implying.

Finding some answers

The answers are to be found in two books, both of which are considered authoritative as far as describing the process of Constitution-making was concerned. The first is Granville Austin's classic, *The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a Nation*, which first appeared in 1966. And the second is B. Shiva Rao's magisterial *The Framing of India's Constitution* that was published in 1968. Every student of law has read these books. Both had unprecedented access to public and private archives: in Austin's case to the collection of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, and in Rao's case to the papers of his elder brother, B.N. Rau, who, as constitutional adviser, had prepared the working draft for the Drafting Committee to consider and take forward.

Rao writes that B.R. Ambedkar thought 'Hindustani should be the language of the Union and of the units'. He goes on to say that Rau's working draft had used the term 'Hindustani' but that the Drafting Committee had made an important change in keeping with the decision reached in the Congress Party's deliberations and used, instead, the term 'Hindi'. This was the only thing said on the issue of official language in the draft Constitution that was put up for debate in the Constituent Assembly.

Debate and compromise

The discussions in the Congress Party itself were highly acrimonious. On the one side were Hindi champions such as Purushottam Das Tandon, Govind Das and Raghu Vira. On the other side were members who were mostly from outside the Hindi heartland who resisted the imposition of Hindi. In this category fell not only Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel and Azad but also Syama Prasad Mukherjee who argued that 'unity in diversity is India's keynote and must be achieved by a process of understanding and consent and for that a proper atmosphere has to be created'.

Shankarrao Deo spoke for many in the Constituent Assembly when he said, 'I am an Indian but my language is Marathi. If having Hindi as the official language means one language for the whole country then I am against it.' It was not just language but, more importantly, the issue of numerals that was to be contentious with the Hindi champions insisting on Devanagari numerals. Ultimately, a compromise formula was worked out within the Congress Party. This was called the Munshi-Ayyangar formula named after K.M. Munshi and N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar, who had worked the most to bring about a consensus. Interestingly, listed as its sponsors in the Constituent Assembly when it was debated were not only Ayyangar and Munshi but also B.R. Ambedkar. This itself is enough to knock the wind out of the Bobde-Swaminathan view.

The formula provided that 'the official language of the Union was to be Hindi with the Nagari script but that International numerals would be used. Notwithstanding this, English was to be used for Union affairs for fifteen years and Parliament could extend this period'. There were many other elements to the formula such as the enrichment of Hindi through expressions used in Hindustani and the expansion of its library drawing upon Sanskrit and 13 other living Indian languages.

Austin writes that the fact that amendments were submitted for Sanskrit as an official language by members knowing full well that it stood no chance of passage reflected the 'disgust and dismay which many Assembly members by this time looked on the controversy'. It is extreme frustration and despair at the obduracy of the Hindi-only brigade that had driven B.R. Ambedkar and others to embrace the idea of Sanskrit as the official language. It was, in fact, put forward just two days before the debate on the language issue was to take place in the Constituent Assembly. As far as I have been able to unearth, Dr. Ambedkar did not even move the amendment when called upon to do so.

The obduracy of the Hindi-only brigade is what drove B.R. Ambedkar and others to embrace the idea of Sanskrit as the official language

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cheetah project

The passing of two African cheetahs introduced in India is shocking (Page 1, "After death of two cheetahs, M.P. seeks new site for the felines", April 25). The request of the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department to the Centre, for an "alternative" site for the cats, raises questions about the rationale behind the selection of the particular habitat the cats are in now.

Considering the scant regard the government of the day has for science, especially Charles Darwin's Theory of Evolution, one cannot brush aside the criticism from the "international community of cheetah experts and biologists" about this project for its "unscientific approach". One hopes that the issues of a lack of space and prey for the African cheetahs will be addressed with the help of experts.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

The statements by some of the senior officials associated with the project, that the terrestrial space required by a cheetah is unknown, and that 50% survival of the translocated felines would be considered a success for the project, are appalling. To top all of this, we are bent on christening the animals with Indianised names, an example being 'Oban' to 'Pavan'.

Dr. Sam Vijay Kumar J.,
Vanur, Villupuram, Tamil Nadu

Liquor policy

That the Tamil Nadu government has revoked its decision on liquor consumption in marriage halls and non-commercial premises only begs the question why such a decision was made in the first place. Of course there would have been undesirable repercussions had it been allowed. Important decisions need to be well thought out.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

COVID-19 cases

The sudden spike in COVID-19 cases is an indication that the wily virus is still on the prowl. Even if COVID-19 is becoming endemic, all attempts must be made to increase the rate of vaccination.

Dr. Biju C. Mathew,
Thiruvananthapuram

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

The limited role of textbooks in history

Aditya Iyengar

is the author of five critically acclaimed novels on mythology and historical fiction on the Cholas

A lot of ink has been spilt on the National Council of Educational and Research Training (NCERT)'s omission of certain details about the Mughals, among others, from the Class 12 text book. The NCERT said the portions overlapped with the material covered in previous classes and were omitted for brevity.

It is widely believed that our understanding of history comes from textbooks. This is not entirely the case. As with most social sciences, our knowledge of history comes from lived experience. This includes what we read in fiction or non-fiction or from the Internet; what we watch on television or cinema; what we are told by our friends and family either in person or via social media; what we see of history in our daily experience in the form of monuments or ruins; and the material objects we interact with such as heirloom jewellery or clothes or food. The stories told to us by our families, the meals we eat, and the clothes we wear, the places we visit all come together to create the foundation of our working knowledge of history. This is not to disparage the role of the history textbook in education.

The role of the textbook in our understanding of history is powerful but limited. Classrooms give us a framework which we can use to view the events of the world. For instance, a school student of history will broadly know that the rule of the Delhi Sultanate was followed by the rule of the Mughals and then the British in Delhi. If someone were to change the facts around and say that the British came before the Mughals, the student would have learned enough to know better than to trust them. The point of the textbook, therefore, is to provide a framework of factual information in a sequence. After completing their school education, most children would find it impossible to name the British Governor Generals of India, but all of them would know that the Governor General was the highest authority for the British Raj. So, we don't really 'learn' history in school as much as learn a sequence of events of the past. The amount of curiosity the school curriculum generates about history in students can be seen by the many complaints one hears about how history is never taught in an interesting way in school.

> The history taught and communicated in schools should be more than just about individual 'doers' and their actions

Great Man Theory

The 19th-century essayist Thomas Carlyle posited a theory of the study of history called the Great Man Theory. He wrote that great men or influential and charismatic individuals, through intellect or force, bend the course of history and the narrative of history needs to be studied through their acts. While seemingly revolutionary for its time, this was nothing new. History has always been viewed through the prism of individual 'doers' who more often than not happen to be royalty. Most of what is wrong with the way history is taught and communicated can be traced back to the Great Man Theory. For one, the importance attached to dynasties and kings is often overstated. More crucially, the use of battles as milestones on a chronological roadmap also diminishes the power of other ways of looking at history. Far too much importance is attached to the military in history; the pain and brutality that would have accompanied battles and invasions are often couched in terms like 'bravery', and 'glory' to distract readers from destruction and loss of lives. A more sensitive view of the past needs to be one where battles are viewed negatively in the scheme of historical narrative and more information communicated on the loss from conflict.

In the 20th century, a contrasting way of approaching history came about - mostly from left-leaning historians - called people's history. This sought to focus on the view of the common people and on larger social and economic forces rather than on leaders. Another name for this approach to studying historical narratives was 'history from below' since it told the stories of the disenfranchised, the oppressed, the poor and weak (often referred to as subalterns) who have historically outnumbered those in power.

Applying an approach like this to communicate history both in classrooms and outside will have a number of effects. It would prise open the narrow prisms through which we have been forced to view history. If we no longer study about the wars and campaigns of kings or the arcs of dynasties and instead learned about their social and administrative policies, the conditions of the subaltern, and the daily routines of the people, we may learn history that is less glamorous but far more true to its purpose. Ultimately the purpose of communicating history is a simple one: to show how far we have come and how far we have yet to go. The goal of communicating history should be to have a citizenry that is aware that the past is nuanced and complex. With this realisation, people will stop being aggravated by history. The road to this begins when students learn about history from a perspective that takes the focus off individuals or dynasties and treats the subject as an evolving chronology of events.

While the NCERT has the onerous duty of prioritising and re-prioritising what history needs to be compressed into the 300 odd pages of a textbook, omitting information on the Mughals can be seen as a way to erase the factual retelling of an important epoch of Indian history even if the erasure might not make the greatest difference to public perception of them. Relatedly, a re-orientation of how information about them is communicated would go a long way in dispelling views formed because of ignorance about them.

Views expressed are personal

Trinamool caught in a political flux

Party has started outreach programmes ahead of civic polls to retain its base

STATE OF PLAY

Shiv Sahay Singh
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There is rarely a dull moment in West Bengal politics and political parties both in the government and the Opposition always seem to be in election mode. As the ruling Trinamool Congress, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Front and the Congress brace for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the parties are eager to test the political waters in the panchayat polls.

At a time when the State was expecting an announcement for panchayat polls, the Trinamool leadership launched a two-month-long outreach programme across the north and south of West Bengal. The initiative, '*Trinamooler Nabo Jowar*' (Trinamool's new wave), led by the party general secretary and its second-most important leader, Abhishek Banerjee, is not only aimed at reaching out to the masses but also an attempt to seek the opinion of the electorate on deciding the party's candidates for the panchayat polls. Mr. Banerjee, who began the campaign on Tuesday from Coochbehar in north Bengal, will be on the road for the next two months addressing rallies and meeting party workers, something which his party is describing as an 'innovative' step.

In January, West Bengal's ruling party had launched another outreach programme '*Didir Suraksha Kawach*' (Didi Protection Shield)' where '*Didir Doots*' (Didi's emissaries) were expected to reach out to the people. The back-to-back outreach initiatives of the Trinamool Congress are a reflection of the party's desperation to hold on to its political dominance in the State.

As the 2024 Lok Sabha polls draw near, Trinamool is facing several challenges. A host of scams, particularly the school job scam, have emerged as a major embarrassment for the party with several politicians and officials behind bars. The pro-poor image of the party and its chairperson Mamata Banerjee who projects herself as a 'symbol of honesty' has been dented.

The idea of a 'referendum' for selecting candidates for the panchayat polls is also an attempt to keep the party flock together as there is a lot of factionalism and lobbying for seats for the local bodies within the party.

Opposition's win

Another fear that the Trinamool leadership harbours is the split in minority votes. The recent bypoll at Sagardighi in Murshidabad district where the Left Front-supported Congress candidate trumped the Trinamool nominee has led political observers to believe that there is some disillusionment among the minorities against the ruling establishment. The bypoll, in a seat where the Muslim community is in a majority, also emerged as a case study with the Left, the Congress as well as the BJP strategically joining forces to defeat the Trinamool.

Despite her national ambitions, Ms. Banerjee's attempt to extend the reach of the Trinamool beyond West Bengal has not paid off. The party has not been able to make any significant impact in the Assembly elections in Goa and Tripura. If Ms. Banerjee has to play a key role in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, she has to win the maximum number of seats in the State she has been ruling for the past 11 years.

The top leadership of the BJP has also started touring the State. Earlier this month, Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a rally in Birbhum and set a target of 35 seats for his party for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. In the 2019 polls, the Trinamool won 22 Lok Sabha seats, the BJP won 18 and the Congress won two seats from West Bengal. However, the third term of the Trinamool Congress government has brought several challenges.

From communal flare-ups during Ram Navami processions a few weeks ago, to the carnage in Bogtui in Birbhum in March 2022, Bengal has been rocked by recurrent incidents of political violence. Trinamool is also feeling the heat of the investigation into the school job scam, cross-border cattle smuggling scam and coal pilferage scam. With the Lok Sabha elections drawing near, different ethnic communities from Darjeeling in the north to Purulia and Paschim Medinipur in the south are trying to regroup and raise demands related to their identity and reservation.

The politics in the State is in a flux and the Trinamool's repeated outreach programmes are an attempt to consolidate its support base, particularly in north Bengal and southwest Bengal where it drew a blank in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Kolkata records hottest April, east and north-east sizzle

On the April 14, 16 and 17 this year, the city's maximum temperature crossed the 40°C mark

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

On April 16, the West Bengal administration released a directive instructing schools, colleges, educational establishments and universities, comprising private institutions, to stay shut the following week due to intense heat wave conditions. Additionally, it even advanced the summer vacations of some educational institutions.

This was a step in the right direction because according to the data from the IMD's gridded database, in 2023, for the first time, the maximum temperature crossed the 40°C mark in Kolkata for the month of April. The oldest data available in the IMD gridded database was from April 1952.

On April 14, 16 and 17 of this year, the city's maximum temperature crossed the mark, peaking at 40.4°C on April 14. These measurements are for the surface temperature at two metres above ground level.

Chart B plots the maximum temperatures recorded on the various days of April in Kolkata between 1952 and 2023. Each X mark corresponds to a maximum temperature recorded on a day in April. The higher the mark, the higher the maximum temperature. As can be observed, only three marks crossed the 40°C point, and all are from 2023.

The analysis in 2023 is based on the information from the first 18 days of April. However, the data was compared to the entire month of April from earlier years. To put it differently, during the first 18 days of April 2023, Kolkata recorded maximum temperatures above 40°C on three different days. In contrast, none of the days of the month of April from the previous years, even when considering the full 30 days, crossed that mark. On April 23, 2016, the maximum temperature touched 40°C in the city but did not cross the mark.

This is of significance because temperatures increase gradually to peak at the end of April or at the start of May. Whereas in April 2023, the record temperatures were recorded around mid-April. **Chart A** shows all the days between 1952 and 2023 that recorded a maximum temperature of 40°C or above in Kolkata. In previous years, the days that touched/crossed the 40°C mark came in May or June. This shows that warmer temperatures are being recorded much earlier this year.

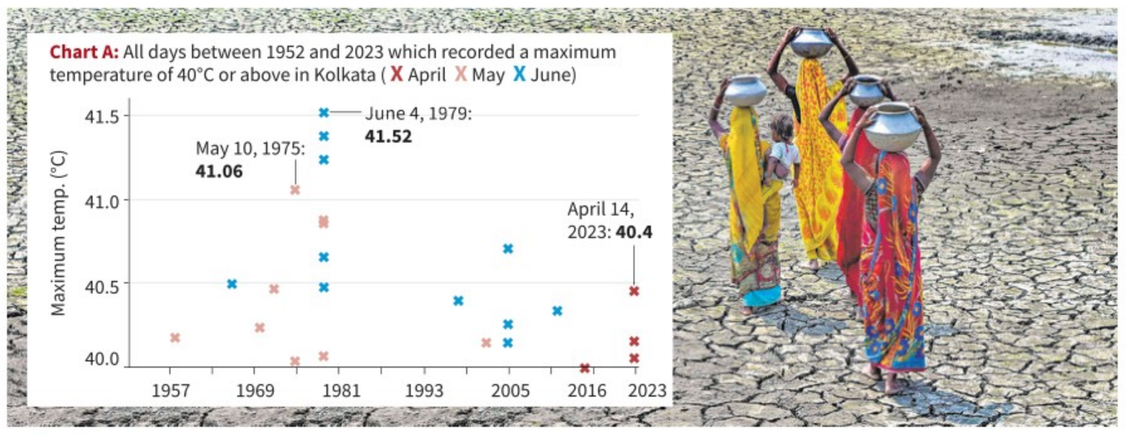
West Bengal was not the only State to witness a warmer April. The Tripura administration declared on April 17 that all State-run and State-supported schools would be shut for six days starting April 18. A notice said that the decision was made in consideration of the students' health. Following Tripura, Meghalaya announced the closure of all educational establishments in certain areas of the State due to a heatwave. This marks the first occurrence of such an event for Meghalaya. In Maharashtra, a gathering on April 16 that drew thousands of participants under the sweltering sun led to at least 13 persons succumbing to heat strokes.

Table C lists the capital cities in India (I), the hottest day in April 2023 (II), and the maximum temperature recorded on that day (III), the hottest day for any April between 1952 and 2023 (IV), and the maximum temperature recorded on that day (V). Apart from Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, Aizawl in Mizoram and Imphal in Manipur also recorded their highest maximum temperature for the month of April this year.

The cities of Amaravati, Patna, Raipur, Gandhinagar, Ranchi, Bhopal, Jaipur, Hyderabad and Lucknow too crossed the 40°C maximum temperature mark on at least one day in April this year. But they did not cross the record set in previous Aprils.

Hot spots in April

The charts are based on data collated using the IMDLIB python library which scrapes weather data from the India Meteorological Department. The library was developed for lwcc.in by Saswata Nandi, Pratiman Patel, & Sabyasachi Swain



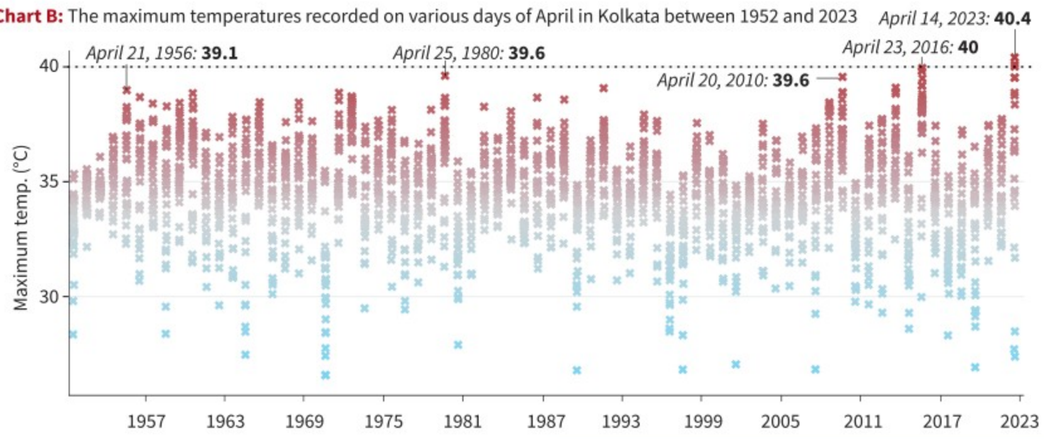


Table C (I)	Hottest day in April '23 (II)	Max temp. in April '23 (III)	Hottest day ever in April (IV)	Max temp. on IV (V)
Amaravati	16th	40.31	1991-04-30	42.58
Itanagar	17th	36.38	2010-04-17	42.04
Dispur	18th	34.80	1979-04-27	35.63
Patna	18th	41.89	1999-04-26	43
Raipur	18th	40.08	2009-04-30	44.26
Panaji	13th	34.02	2016-04-27	36.36
Gandhinagar	10th	40.67	1958-04-27	43.44
Chandigarh	17th	36.38	2010-04-17	42.04
Shimla	17th	36.69	2010-04-17	37.6
Ranchi	18th	41.01	1999-04-28	43.26
Bengaluru	13th	36.51	2016-04-24	39.30
Trivandrum	**18th**	**36.09**	**2023-04-18**	**36.09**
Bhopal	18th	41.00	2009-04-30	44.55

City (I)	Hottest day in April '23 (II)	Max temp. in April '23 (III)	Hottest day ever in April (IV)	Max temp. on IV (V)
Mumbai	19th	37.36	1955-04-21	39.58
Imphal	**16th**	**37.09**	**2023-04-16**	**37.09**
Shillong	19th	32.32	2014-04-24	36.02
Aizawl	**16th**	**37.93**	**2023-04-16**	**37.93**
Kohima	16th	36.19	2014-04-22	37.00
Bhubaneswar	12th	38.99	2016-04-11	40.32
Jaipur	18th	40.09	1958-04-26	44.51
Chennai	19th	37.36	2016-04-23	42.23
Hyderabad	19th	40.62	1973-04-30	43.9
Agartala	16th	35.62	1960-04-19	36.31
Lucknow	17th	41.47	1980-04-29	43.88
Dehradun	18th	31.92	2010-04-17	36.99
Kolkata	**14th**	**40.45**	**2023-04-14**	**40.45**

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 26, 1973

Chief Justice of India A.N. Ray appointed

New Delhi, April 25. Mr. Justice A.N. Ray was to-day appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in succession to Mr. Justice S. M. Sikri who retired to-day. This is the first time in the history of the Supreme Court that the Government of India has departed from the established convention of appointing the senior-most Judge as Chief Justice. In 1964, when Mr. Justice P. B. Gajendragadkar was appointed as the Chief Justice of India, he had technically superseded Mr. Justic Jaffer Imam who was keeping indifferent health at that time and was himself unwilling to bear the burden of this high judicial office. So he had actually tendered his resignation before Mr. Justice Gajendragadkar assumed office as the Chief Justice of India and the Government now for the first time has set a new precedent for making a selection appointment to this high judicial office without adhering strictly to the seniority rule. The appointment of Mr. A. N. Ray has led to the supersession of his three senior colleagues , Mr. J. M. Shelat, Mr. K. S. Hegde and Mr. A. N. Grover. But the Government has taken the decision to terminate the previous convention of automatically elevating the senior-most member of the bench to the highest judicial post irrespective of the incumbent's residuary tenure and other considerations. In the normal course, Mr. Shelat would have succeeded Mr. Sikri, but he would have reached his statutory retirement age of 65 on July 16, 1973, which meant he would have been Chief Justice for less than three months.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 26, 1923

Gallipoli Day

(British Official Wireless)

Leafield (Oxford) Midnight, April 26.

Australians and New Zealanders all over the world are celebrating to-day the eighth anniversary of the landing at Galliipoli. In the capital cities of Australia and New Zealand the day is being observed as a public holiday. This morning Sir John Joseph Cook, High Commissioner for Australia in London and the representative of Australia States and New Zealand, laid wreaths on the cenotaph in Whitehall in memory of their fallen countrymen.

From Page One

First set of Indians leaves war-torn Sudan

However, the actual operation took time to begin because it took time for the ceasefire to come into effect and also because the civilian infrastructure on the ground had come to a halt.

Banking hit

The worst affected is Sudan's banking sector as banks have stopped working, adding to peoples' misery.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Batuk Harkisandas, secretary of the Indian Association in Port Sudan, said neither banks nor petrol pumps were working in Sudan, which had made movement and transactions nearly impossible. "We had a digital cash system in Sudan which stopped functioning as soon as the war began. Sometimes we manage to transfer cash digitally and sometimes we cannot. There is a scarcity of diesel and it was with great difficulty that we found diesel for our buses," he said.

Due to the collapse of the digital banking system, Indians had to use whatever hard currency they had in hand to get out of the crisis-hit areas, he said.

Indians are among the largest Asian communities in Sudan and are scattered in its big cities badly affected by the war between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). An Indian citizen who was evacuated from Khartoum told *The Hindu* that buses had to travel nearly 800 km from Khartoum to Port Sudan to bring them to the point of extraction where *INS Sumedha* was waiting. Upon reaching Port Sudan, the Indians were housed in a school building where the local Indian community is volunteering to look after the requirements.

According to available information, the total number of Indians in Sudan is around 3,000.

SC to hear wrestlers' plea against BJP MP

The court said only petitions and records in which their identities have been redacted would be made available in the public domain.

The court issued formal notice and allowed petitioners liberty to serve copies of their petition to counsel for the Delhi government.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the seven women wrestlers, said even police officers who have refused to register FIRs on the basis of sexual harassment complaints made by the petitioners could be prosecuted. One of the petitioners was a minor at the time of the alleged sexual harassment, he said.

"FIR is not being registered because the accused is a Member of Parliament of the ruling party," Mr. Sibal submitted.

Chief Justice Chandrachud pointed out that the petitioners have a remedy under Section 156 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, under which a Magistrate could order an investigation.

"Of course, we have... but look at how the police are not registering an FIR on these allegations... These are allegations of sexual harassment... There are video recordings," Mr. Sibal said, referring to the seriousness of the allegations.

Mr. Sibal said the complaints of the petitioners have been placed in a sealed cover. "The last complaint is by a minor. The young girl was 16 at the time. The accused is the president of the Wrestling Federation of India... Even the police officers can be prosecuted for not registering an offence of this nature," he submitted.

In its order, the court observed that "there are serious allegations contained in the petition".

The Bench ordered the complaints attached with the writ petition to be re-sealed.

Protesting mob sets police station on fire in Kaliaganj

Protesters laid siege to the station over the alleged rape and murder of a 17-year-old girl and violence soon broke out; the ruling Trinamool and the BJP blame each other for the situation

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Violence erupted in Kaliaganj town of Uttar Dinajpur district in West Bengal on Tuesday with the local people setting fire to a police station during a protest against the death of a teenage girl.

Earlier in the day, the protesters called for a siege of the Kaliaganj police station over the alleged rape and murder of a 17-year-old teenager from Rajbanshi. The situation turned violent and the people attacked the station. The mob broke barricades and threw stones at the building. A few people set fire to several motorbikes and another vehicle parked on the premises.

Firefighters brought the blaze under control. The police faced a considerable challenge to disperse the mob. They had to fire tear gas shells and resort to baton charge.

Raging anger: Flames billowing out after a group of protesters set the Kaliaganj police station on fire on Tuesday. PTI

Kaliaganj has been on the boil for the past few days over the death of the girl. Her family members and the local people have been alleging that she was sexually assaulted and killed.

According to the West Bengal Police, the post-mortem said that the death was due to consumption of poison. What has irked the family members is that a few policemen dragged the body of the victim, as seen in a video. Four assistant sub-inspectors were suspended on Monday for the alleged act.

The death of the girl had triggered a public spat between the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights. NCPCR Chairperson Priyank Kanoongo had visited Kaliaganj and blamed the police authorities for mishandling the situation.

The body of the girl was found floating in a canal in Kaliaganj on April 21. Alleging that she was raped and killed, the people put up road blockades by burning tyres and setting several shops on fire. Since then, the situation has remained volatile with occasional clashes between the people and the police.

After the violence at the police station, the Trinamool Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party blamed each other for the situation.

Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari condemned the attack and blamed Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Supplementary chargesheet filed against Sisodia

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Manish Sisodia

The CBI has filed a supplementary chargesheet against former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and three others in connection with the case related to the now-scrapped excise liquor policy.

Among those arraigned are businessperson Amandeep Singh Dhall, chartered accountant Butchibabu Gorantla, and one Arjun Pandey. The court has fixed May 12 for arguments on the supplementary chargesheet.

'Hawala channels'

On April 16, the CBI recorded the statement of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal in the same case. He later alleged that the entire case was fabricated and the agency did not have any proof. "It is a result of dirty politics," he had said.

According to the CBI's first chargesheet, the wholesale distribution of Pernod Ricard and Diageo was to go to Indo Spirits and Brindco Spirits, respectively. After recovering the paid money, the 6% kickbacks received from wholesalers was to be shared equally between Mr. Nair and Hyderabad-based businessperson Abhishek Boinpally.

The ED is conducting the money laundering probe based on the CBI's case. Its chargesheets allege that a part of the alleged kickbacks were diverted through "hawala" channels for the AAP's poll campaign in the 2022 Goa Assembly election.

Arunachal residents unhappy about Assam border deal

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

After a few of their counterparts in Meghalaya, some border residents of Arunachal Pradesh have opposed the boundary deal with Assam, signed on April 20.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Arunachal Pradesh counterpart Pema Khandu signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to end the 50-year-old dispute pertaining to 123 villages, along their 804-km inter-State border.

'Biased deal'

The Tirap, Changlang and Longding People's Forum (TCLPF) has threatened to go to court against the "unilateral, biased" boundary deal "totally against the interest of Arunachal's Tangsa people living in Assam and the affected villages of Changlang district".

Tirap, Changlang and Longding are the easternmost districts of Arunachal Pradesh. The TCLPF's objection to the pact was in respect to Changlang and Assam's Tinsukia district.

It referred to a clause in the boundary deal that reads: "There was no claimed village for Changlang-Tinsukia in 2007 before the local commission. Therefore, HPTC (High-Powered Tripartite Committee) boundary shall be abided by both States in the Changlang-Tinsukia area."

No ground survey

The people of 13 villages on either side of the border convened a meeting on Monday to strongly oppose the boundary deal, the forum said in a statement.

The forum also said a local commission appointed by the Supreme Court in 2006 carried out field visits in certain areas of Arunachal Pradesh but did not visit or conduct any survey in Changlang district.

"As a result, it was indicated that there were no claimed villages for the Changlang-Tinsukia district in 2007," it said.

Bihar government allows don-turned-politician Anand Mohan to walk free

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

The Bihar government has officially issued the notification to release don-turned-politician Anand Mohan, serving a life sentence for the murder of former District Magistrate of Gopalganj G. Krishnaiah.

On Monday evening, the Bihar government issued the notification listing the names of 27 prisoners, including that of Mohan, all of whom have spent at least 14 years in jail. The news came when Mohan, who is out on parole, was at the engagement of his son Chetan Anand.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav went straight to the ceremony at Vishwanath Farm, on the outskirts of Patna. Both had just landed at Patna airport after meeting West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav.

Anand Mohan

Mohan once held sway over the Koshi region and is considered the leader of the upper caste Rajput community. He was also an MP for Sheohar in 1996 while in jail.

Mohan's associate Chhotan Shukla was killed in a police encounter after which Mohan, along with Bhutkun Shukla, killed the then Gopalganj DM on the Muzaffarpur-Vaishali road in 1994.

The Nitish Kumar government had on April 10 amended the Bihar Prison Manual, 2012, removing the "murder of a public servant on duty" clause from the list of cases for which remission of jail term cannot be considered. This particular amendment helped the early release of Mohan.

The BJP has criticised the release of Mohan. Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha member Sushil Kumar Modi, said "This decision is against the public interest, it is unconstitutional, arbitrary, unnecessary and anti-Dalit as well. It is not only the question of Anand Mohan alone, along with 26 dreaded criminals are being released from the jail. Out of the 27, half a dozen criminals are convicted because of murdering SC/ST people and government employees."

Asked about the Opposition's allegation that he was being released due to the pressure from Mr. Nitish Kumar and the RJD, Mohan mockingly asked whether in the Bilkis Bano case in Gujarat too, the accused had been released due to pressure from Mr. Kumar and the RJD.

Proclamation notice issued against JeM 'commander'

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR/JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday issued a proclamation order against Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) 'commander' Ashiq Nengroo, booked two "anti-nationals" under the stringent Public Safety Act, and chargesheeted two militants and their three associates in J&K, as part of the ongoing operation in the UT.

The court has given them 30 days to surrender before the competent authority.

In the Chenab Valley's Kishtwar, two local people, Muhammad Rafi from Poochal and Ghulam Qadir from Dachhan, were arrested and lodged in the Kathua district jail "to ensure they do not support terrorism anymore".

Meanwhile, the J&K Police's Special Investigation Unit presented a chargesheet before the NIA court, Srinagar, against five accused persons, including three terrorist associates and two terrorists.

Sharp Budget cut will kill MGNREGS, says Udit Raj

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The sharp Budget cut for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has left the State governments paralysed, senior Congress leader and chairman of the party's "unorganised workers and employee" wing Udit Raj said on Tuesday, while protesting against what he called a systematic attack on the UPA-era poverty alleviation scheme.

"With the reduced Budget, the government cannot deliver its promise of providing 100 days of work per household a year. In fact, some estimates indicate that the available Budget is enough to provide for only 26 days of work," Mr. Raj said.

Shiromani Akali Dal patriarch and former Punjab CM Parkash Singh Badal passes away

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Former Punjab Chief Minister and veteran Akali Dal leader Parkash Singh Badal passed away on Tuesday, after a brief illness at a private hospital in Mohali.

The 95-year-old Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) patriarch was undergoing treatment at the hospital after he complained of uneasiness while breathing.

According to the hospital's media bulletin, Mr. Badal was admitted to the hospital on April 16 with acute exacerbation of bronchial asthma. He was shifted to the ICU on April 18 as his respiratory condition worsened. Despite appropriate medical management, Mr. Badal died of his illness, the bulletin added.

The SAD and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had been alliance partners since the late 1990s, and the long association was credited to Mr. Badal's political acumen. However, amid the controversy over the farm laws proposed by the Centre, the SAD decided to break away from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) coalition in 2020.

In an Interview to *The Hindu* in 2019, Mr. Badal said, "In Punjab, our alliance is not a political one. It is a guarantee for social and communal harmony. In other States and at the Centre, we follow a common minimum programme. The alliance in Punjab was a historical necessity, considering the challenges to Hindu-Sikh unity and harmony. I think we served and are serving a great cause."

Mr. Badal served as Punjab's Chief Minister five

Parkash Singh Badal

times: 1970-71; 1977 to 1980; 1997 to 2002 and from 2007 to 2017 (two consecutive terms).

He led the party as its president from 1995 to 2008. The Government of India awarded him the second highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan, in 2015.

Born on December 8, 1927 in Abul Khurana, near Malout, Mr. Badal graduated from the Forman Christian College in Lahore.

In 1970, he became the youngest Chief Minister of an Indian State at the time. Mr. Badal was first elected to the Punjab Assembly in 1957. He had been elected nine times since then.

Political stalwart

Soon after his death, condolence messages started to flow. President Droupadi Murmu, in a tweet, said, "Shri Parkash Singh Badal was one of the tallest political stalwarts since Independence. Though his exemplary career in public service was largely confined to Punjab, he was respected across the country. His demise leaves a void. My heartfelt condolences to his family and admirers."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Extremely saddened by the passing away of Shri Parkash Singh Badal *ji*. He was a colossal figure of Indian politics, and a remarkable statesman who contributed greatly to our nation. He worked tirelessly for the progress of Punjab and anchored the State through critical times." He added, "Shri Parkash Singh Badal's passing away is a personal loss for me. I have interacted closely with him for many decades and learnt so much from him. I recall our numerous conversations, in which his wisdom was always clearly seen. Condolences to his family and countless admirers."

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed deep condolences to the family. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi expressed sadness at the news and said Badal had been a lifelong leader in politics in Punjab and the country.

'Rate of out-of-pocket expenditure declines'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Health Ministry on Tuesday released the National Health Accounts Estimates for India (2019-20) and noted that the share of out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) in total health expenditure has declined from 62.6% in 2014-15 to 47.1% in 2019-20, while government health expenditure's share in the country's total GDP increased from 1.13% (2014-15) to 1.35% (2019-20).

Vinod K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog said that the share of private health insurance is also going up. "This shows a sign of maturity in terms of the insurance arena as those who can afford [health insurance] will afford it from private players too."

APPEAL

I am **Kabil Yathra** aged 12 years seeking your support in bringing a lasting change and a new life. I suffer from Acute Myeloid Leukemia and have to undergo Chemotherapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. I urgently need Rs. 8,00,000/- for my treatment. Donations sent by Ch/D.D favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged**.
The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No: 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **Women's Welfare Syndicate** is exempted under 80G IT(Please do not mention patient name on the cheque).
All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E-Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org
Kabil Yathra

'Why is PM CARES Fund not subject to public audit?'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Alleging that the PM CARES Fund is shrouded in secrecy, the Congress on Tuesday asked why it has no transparency and accountability and is not subjected to any audit or covered under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, despite 60% of its funds coming from public sector undertakings (PSUs).

At a press conference, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said that a public fund that gets donations of ₹5,000 crore should come within the ambit of RTI and show accountability.

"The controversies surrounding the PM CARES Fund prove that it was set up by a highly uncaring government, by an uncaring ruling party and Prime Minister," Mr. Singhvi said. "The 'C' in PM CARES stands for coercion, chaos, confusion and corruption," Mr. Singhvi said.

India to host SCO Defence Ministers' meeting this week

China's Li Shangfu and Russia's Sergei Shoigu are among the participants; this will be the first high-level military visit from China since the start of the crisis on the LAC in April 2020

Ananth Krishnan

India will host Defence Ministers from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) grouping, including China's Li Shangfu and Russia's Sergei Shoigu, later this week, India's Ministry of Defence said on Tuesday.

As Chair this year of the SCO, which includes Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan besides India, New Delhi will be hosting the visiting Defence Ministers from member countries, as well as from observers Belarus and Iran. While Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif is expected to join the conference virtually, a Pakistani Defence Ministry delegation arrived in India on Tuesday for the SCO Working Group meeting on Wednesday, ahead of the Ministerial meeting.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu (left) and Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu have confirmed participation. FILE PHOTO

"The Defence Ministers will discuss amongst other issues matters concerning regional peace and security, counter-terrorism efforts within the SCO and an effective multilateralism," a statement on Tuesday said, adding that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will also hold bilateral meetings on the sidelines.

Beijing on Tuesday announced that the newly appointed State Councillor and Defence Minister General Li Shangfu will visit India on April 27 and 28, and will also hold bilateral meetings.

This will be the first high-level military visit from China since the start of the LAC crisis in April 2020. On Sunday, both sides held the 18th round of military talks between Corps Commanders, agreeing that restoring peace along the border areas would "enable progress" in recently strained relations.

On Monday, India's Ambassador in Beijing, Pradeep Kumar Rawat, who took office in March 2022, was among 70 foreign envoys who formally presented their credentials to President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in the capital. The presenting of credentials to Mr. Xi by foreign envoys was thought to have been delayed on account of the "zero-COVID" restrictions in place for much last year when the Chinese leader had strictly restricted public engagements, as well as by the holding of the National People's Congress in March which marked the start of Mr. Xi's third term as President.

NIA official suspended over graft charge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has suspended Vishal Garg, an official of the rank of Superintendent of Police with the National Investigation Agency, pending an inquiry into the allegation of corruption against him.

The official was part of the team that had investigated the 2007 Samjhauta Express blast. Confirming the development, a senior agency official said: "When it comes to corrupt practices, we have a zero tolerance approach."

Mr. Garg was earlier suspended along with two others in 2019 following the allegation that he had attempted to extort ₹2 crore from a businessman on the threat that he would otherwise be implicated in a terror-funding case.

As no evidence was found against him during the ensuing inquiry, he was reinstated in 2020.

INBRIEF

Parents write to CJI, seek nod for same-sex marriage

A group of over 400 parents have written to Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, who is heading a Bench hearing the pleas seeking legal sanction for same-sex marriage, urging that their LGBTQ wards be granted the right to "marriage equality". "We desire to see our children and children-in-law find final legal acceptance for their relationship under the Special Marriage Act in our country. We are certain that a nation as big as ours which respects its diversity and stands for the value of exclusion, will open its legal gate of marriage equality to our children too," the group said in its letter. PTI

Will remain in NCP, don't fall prey to rumours: Ajit Pawar

With the buzz around him joining the ruling Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena- BJP dispensation refusing to abate, Nationalist Congress Party leader Ajit Pawar on Tuesday again reiterated he would "remain in the NCP till his last breath." At a meeting, he said that lots of rumours had been spread about him "for no reason". "In the last few days, lots of rumours have been spread about me for no reason and a cloud of doubt created around me. But I remain committed to my work and have been going about it...Do not fall prey to such speculation," Mr. Pawar said.

Air India pilots petition Tata over new employment terms

Nearly 1,500 Air India pilots petitioned the airline's Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata on Tuesday seeking his intervention to resolve the deadlock between the management and the crew over the airline's revised terms of employment and salary allowances "We are currently facing a difficult situation ... We feel that we are not being treated with the respect and dignity that we deserve as employees of Air India," the petition reads. Last Monday, Air India announced the revised service conditions and compensation details, which unions representing pilots have said will result in a "hostile work environment".

Centre to conduct national conclave on *Mann Ki Baat*

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Information & Broadcasting Ministry is organising a national conclave on '*Mann Ki Baat*' on Wednesday, ahead of the 100th edition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly address to the nation.

The conclave will be inaugurated by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar in the presence of Guest of Honour and Union Minister Anurag Thakur.

The 100th edition of the programme, which was launched on October 3, 2014, is to be broadcast on April 30. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will address the valedictory session of the conclave.

Stamp to be unveiled

Among those who would be present are Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary. A commemorative postage stamp and coin on the episodes will also be unveiled.

About 100 esteemed citizens, who have been mentioned by the Prime Minster in various episodes for their contributions, will attend the event.

The inaugural session will be followed up by four panel discussion.

Mr. Modi had so far mentioned over 700 individuals and around 300 organisations in the programme for their contributions, the Ministry said in a statement.

Defamation case: Rahul files appeal in Gujarat HC

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday moved the Gujarat High Court seeking a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case after the Surat sessions court rejected his plea.

"We have filed an appeal challenging the Surat district court's order," said advocate Pankaj Champaneri, who will appear for Mr. Gandhi. Earlier, the Surat sessions court had rejected Mr. Gandhi's plea seeking a stay on his conviction in the criminal defamation case filed by BJP legislator Purnesh Modi against the Congress leader.

In his plea before the Surat court, Mr. Gandhi had sought a stay on his conviction contending that the Magistrate's court had treated him harshly.

On March 23, a magisterial court in Surat had sentenced Mr. Gandhi to two years in jail for his 2019 remark, "How come all the thieves have Modi as their surname?"

On April 20, Additional Sessions Judge Robin Mogera rejected the argument that Mr. Purnesh Modi's complaint was not maintainable. "Rahul Gandhi failed to demonstrate that by not staying the conviction and denying an opportunity to contest the election, an irreversible and irrevocable damage will be caused to him," the court noted.

Mighty PR machine is silent on key issues: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio broadcast *Mann Ki Baat* is all set for its 100th episode, the Congress on Tuesday said the government's public relation machinery was "working overtime" for the show's promotion, but the Prime Minister continued to be silent on crucial issues such as the Adani Group controversy and conflict with China.

"The PM's mighty PR machine is working overtime to herald the 100th *Mann ki Baat* on April 30. Meanwhile, it is *Maun ki Baat* as far as Adani, China, Satyapal Malik revelations, MSME destruction and other crucial issues are concerned," tweeted Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh.

The Congress had run a campaign on the alleged scam involving the Adani Group, asking three questions every day under the *Hum Adani ke Hain Kaun* [How are we related to Adani] series and also tried to corner the government on the face-off with China during the recent Parliament session.

Recently, after former Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Governor Satya Pal Malik's allegations on intelligence failure with regard to the Pulwama terror attack, the Congress had accused the government of "minimum governance and maximum silence".

The test is how far can courts go on same-sex union: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

It said the powers of Parliament cover almost all the areas raised in the pleas on same-sex marriage

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court hearing petitions seeking legal recognition of same sex marriages on Tuesday questioned how far the court can adjudicate in issues in which Parliament is empowered to legislate.

The Bench said the powers of Parliament cover almost all the areas raised in the petitions.

"It cannot be disputed that Parliament has the power to interfere with the canvas covered by these petitions. Entry 5 of the Concurrent List covers marriage and divorce... The test really is how far can the courts go?" Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, heading the Bench, asked the petitioners.

Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, for petitioners, said the court need not wait for Parliament to legislate to fill up a vacuum. The provisions of the Special Marriage Act, insofar as they do not recognise same sex marriages, were unconstitutional. The court could act as the 'North Star'.

'Bring relief'

Senior advocate Saurabh Kirpal, also for the petitioners, said the battle for legal status for same sex marriage is not about "all or nothing". The court should intervene and bring whatever relief it could do so, and pave the way for greater changes to evolve.

Mr. Kirpal said the legal recognition of same sex marriage would only fortify and expand the social institution of marriage. He said not allowing same sex marriage had the effect of promoting 'lavender marriages' which would cause misery all around.

He submitted that by not recognising same sex marriage, the country was pushing competent homosexuals to migrate abroad, which would cost the nation economically.

Senior advocate Jayna Kothari, for trans-activist Akkai Padmashali, submitted that the right to marriage and family was recognised as part of the fundamental right to life and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Senior advocate Geeta Luthra referred to the Foreign Marriage Act, submitting that a same-sex couple married abroad find that their relationship has no legal status in India. She said India, which is part of the comity of nations, should not lag behind when 12 out of the G-20 countries, including the EU, have permitted same-sex marriages.

WHO flags contaminated cough syrup made in India

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday said that contaminated cough syrup made by an Indian company had been found on the Marshall Islands and in Micronesia.

The global health body said in its medical product alert that a batch of substandard (contaminated) 'Guaifenesin Syrup TG Syrup' had been identified and reported to the WHO on April 6.

Guaifenesin is an expectorant used to relieve chest congestion and symptoms of cough. "Samples of the Guaifenesin Syrup TG Syrup from the Marshall Islands were analysed by quality control laboratories of the Therapeutic Goods Administration of Australia. The analysis found that the product contained unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol as contaminants," it said.

It added that the stated manufacturer of the affected product is QP Pharmachem Ltd. of Punjab, India. The stated marketer of the product is Trillium Pharma of Haryana, India. To date, neither the stated manufacturer nor the marketer had provided guarantees to the WHO on the safety and quality of these products.

Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are toxic to humans when consumed, and can prove fatal.

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Email: cgm_pmm@apeasternpower.com
Phone No. 0891-2582302/3 Advt-16 **Chief General Manager (P&MM)**

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR CUM CHIEF ENGINEER
EASTERN RAJASTHAN CANAL PROJECT CORPORATION LIMITED, JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN
No. 1992 Date: 10.04.2023
NIB no - ERCPCL/01/2023-24
Managing Director, ERCPCL invites bids for "Leasing of Land at Mahi Dam for Development and Operation of Mahi Tourism Project in District Banswara (50 years Lease Period) Rs 405 Lakh, "Leasing of Land at Bisalpur Dam for Development and Operation of Bisalpur Tourism Project in District Tonk (50 years Lease Period)" Rs 1315 Lakh and "Leasing of Land (Plot no 7 and Island no 46, 46A, 47) at Jawai Dam for Development and Operation of Jawai Tourism Project – I District Pali (50 years Lease Period)" Rs 826 Lakh from interested bidders up to 03.00 PM (time) 02.05.2023 (date). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state.
NIB no: ERP2324A0001
UBN No. ERP2324WSOB00001, ERP2324WLOB00002, ERP2324WLOB00003
Raj.Samwad/C/23/1180 **MD cum Chief Engineer**

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त- शहर उदयपुर
क्रमांक- 64 **निविदा संशोधन सूचना-3** दिनांक 19.04.2023
इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या-06/2022-23 दिनांक 22.02.2023 में निविदा में वर्णित कार्य "Major Repair and strengthing work in udaipur city Muncipal Corporation Area udaipur City Package No. RJ-04/N.N./2022-23" में निम्न प्रकार से संशोधन किया जाता है।
4. निविदा में वर्णित दिनांक में निम्न प्रकार से संशोधन किया जाता है।

पूर्व प्रकाशित	संशोधित
ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की अंतिम तारीख, 19.04.2023 (बुधवार) सायं 6.00 बजे तक	ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की अंतिम तारीख, 05.05.2023 (शुक्रवार) सायं 6.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तारीख 21.04.2023 (शुक्रवार) सायं 5.00 बजे से	ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तारीख 08.05.2023 (सोमवार) सायं 5.00 बजे से

निविदा में वर्णित अन्य विवरण एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।
NIB- PWD2223A4317
UBN- PWD2223WSOB16837
(अशोक कुमार शर्मा)
अधीक्षण अभियंता
सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत्त-शहर उदयपुर
DIPR/C/5792/2023

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
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(A NAVRATNA UNDERTAKING OF GOVT. OF INDIA)
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CONCOR invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for "Empanelment of Vendors / Manufacturers for Bulk handling of Cement / Flyash from the ISO Containers"

EOI No.	CON/T/EOI/Bulk Handling/Cement-Flyash/2023-24
Name of Work	Empanelment of Vendors/Manufacturers for Bulk handling of Cement/Flyash from the ISO Containers.
Date of Sale of EOI	26/04/2023 (16:00 hrs.) to 24/04/2024 (upto 17:00 hrs.)
Date & Time of Submission of EOI	25/04/2024 (upto 13:00 hrs.)
Date & Time of Opening of EOI	25/04/2024 at 15:00 hrs.

Please refer to **www.concorindia.com** and Central Procurement Portal (CPP) for detailed EOI notice. Further, Corrigendum / Addendum to this EOI, if any, will be published on website **www.concorindia.co.in**, and Central Procurement Portal (CPP) only. Newspaper press advertisement shall not be issued for the same. If EOI is not visible on CPP Portal, the same will be alive at CONCOR Website from 26.04.2023 to 24.04.2024.
Executive Director (P&S) / Policy
Container Corporation of India Ltd.

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, PWD, Zone, Ajmer
No.: ACE/AJ/TECH/F2(30A-Ajmer)/D-221 Date:-20.04.2023
NIB No.:-PWD2324A0206
Notice Inviting Bid No. 03/2023-24
Bids for 05 No. Works are invited from interested bidders **upto 6.00 PM on Tuesday 16 May 2023.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the State; and DIPR departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 4693.45 Lacs.**
UBN No:- PWD2324WLOB00889 to PWD2324WLOB00893
(Vikas Dixit)
Additional Chief Engineer,
DIPR/C/5836 PWD, Zone, Ajmer

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, PWD, Zone, Ajmer
No.:- ACE/AJ/TECH/F2(30A-Ajmer)/D-177 Dated :- 17.04.2023
NIB No.:- PWD2324A0135
Notice Inviting Bid No. 02/2023-24
Bids for 03 No. Works/Packages are invited from interested bidders **upto 6.00 PM on Friday 12 May 2023.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the State; and DIPR departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 1253.81 Lacs.**
UBN No. :- PWD2324WSOB00569, PWD2324WSOB00570 & PWD2324WSOB00571.
(Vikas Dixit),
Additional Chief Engineer,
DIPR/C/5643 PWD, Zone, Ajmer.

मुख्यमंत्री निःशुल्क जाँच योजना
Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited, Jaipur
Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur - 302005
Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax : 0141-2228065 E-mail : edepmrmsc-rj@nic.in
CIN:U24232RJ2011SGC035067 Website: http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in
No. F-8( )RMSC/EPM/M-1/2023-24/NIB/55 Dated: 10.04.2023
NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids for Item Dialysis Machine & R.O. System on Turnkey Basis are invited from interested bidders up to 11.05.2023 ; 06.00 p.m. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state; and **http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in**.
UBN-MSC2324GLRC00010
Raj.Samwad/C/23/1170 **Executive Director (EPM)**

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
Indian Council of Agricultural Research
केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
CMFRI
(कृषि अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा विभाग, कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India)
पोस्ट बोक्स सं. 1603, एरणाकुलम नोर्थ पी.ओ., कोच्ची - 682 018, केरल, भारत
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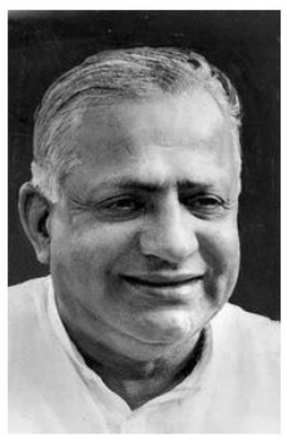
Phone: 91 484 2394867/2391407, Fax: 91 484 2394909/2396685, Email: director.cmfri@icar.gov.in, Web: www.cmfri.org.in
Celebrating 75 Glorious Years of Marine Fisheries & Mariculture Research
F. No. 14-5/2019-Cdn. Dated:26.04.2023
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Tender Enquiry No. ITMU/CMFRI/OL-4/2022-2023
The Director, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, PB No. 1603, Ernakulam North P.O., Kochi-682 018 invites sealed tenders from the competitive bidders to out-license **Cadalmin™ Immunalgin extract (Cadalmin™ Ime) developed by the Institute from seaweeds to improve the immune system** developed by ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute. Tender document issued by this office or downloaded from our official website (www.cmfri.org.in) only be accepted. **Interested registered companies** (private or public) with proven track record may send the tender by post in the prescribed format (as detailed at our official web site www.cmfri.org.in) to the address **(The Director (kind attention: Assistant Administrative Officer -Coordination), Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, PB No. 1603, Ernakulam North P.O., Kochi-682 018 Kerala)** from 25 days of publication of the advertisement.
DIRECTOR, ICAR-CMFRI

Chief Ministers who had a long haul in the State

D. Devraj Urs holds the record for the longest serving Chief Minister of Karnataka. He had held the post for seven years and 269 days, spread across two terms — March 20, 1972 to December 31, 1977 and February 28, 1978 to January 12, 1980. Another Congress stalwart S. Nijalingappa entered the record books by serving as the Chief Minister for a total of seven years and 175 days.

His three stints were from November 1, 1956 to May 16, 1958; June 12, 1962 to March 14, 1967; and March 15, 1967 to May 29, 1968.

The third longest serving Chief Minister of the State was Ramakrishna Hegde from the Janata Party, who held the post for five years and 216 days over two stints — January 10, 1983 to March 7, 1985 and March 8, 1985 to August 13, 1988.


D. Devraj Urs

Candidates in the fray

The chart shows the number of affidavits accepted by the Election Commission of India for the upcoming Assembly election. As many as 2,844 candidates contested the election in 2018 as against 2,948 in 2013. The number of candidates who contested the Assembly election has been above 2,000 since 1989, barring the elections in 1999 and 2004

Accepted 3,961

Rejected 531

Withdrawn 546

Campaign spree: BJP candidate from Basavanagudi constituency Ravi Subramanya flashes the victory sign during an election campaign in Bengaluru. PTI

Yediyurappa's record four terms as CM

B. S. Yediyurappa has served as the Chief Minister of the State for a total of five years and 82 days. He had sworn in as Chief Minister four times, the highest for any Chief Minister in the State. The shortest stint among them was when he held the post for six days in 2018. S. Nijalingappa had been sworn in as Chief Minister thrice.

There is nobody in the country who does not wish good health for the PM... But I wish to ask if this is an election issue

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA
Congress leader

A sea change on the coast: BJP's election rhetoric drifts away from Hindutva to development

The saffron party's poll campaigns in coastal districts this time have been largely around setting caste calculations right and on 'nationalism' and 'development'; in 2018, the party mainly projected itself as the custodian of Hindutva in the region

NEWS ANALYSIS

Raviprasad Kamila
MANGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which swept the 2018 Assembly election in coastal Karnataka by highlighting the "murders of six Hindu youth" during the Congress regime (2013-2018) in the State and projecting itself as the custodian of Hindutva, seems to have shifted its focus this time. The rhetoric heard more often during this year's campaign is around "nationalism" and "development". Moreover, caste calculations have come into play in a more pronounced way this time than ever before in the BJP's scheme of things.

Of the 19 Assembly seats in the three coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada, the BJP won 16 in 2018, leaving three to the Congress. It snatched one more seat – Yellapura in Uttara Kannada – from the Congress in the 2019 byelection, increasing its tally to 17.

Of its 17 MLAs, the BJP has for the May 10 election denied ticket to six by fielding new faces. It has fielded one more newcomer, taking the tally to seven. The Congress has fielded eight new candidates, including Nivedith Alva, son of former Union Minister and former Governor Margaret Alva, from Kumta in Uttara Kannada.

Why the shift?

The shift in the focus by the BJP is perhaps to mask the perception that after targeting the Congress, the "double-engine government" could do little to protect its own foot soldiers. The murder of Praveen Nettaru, a BJP Yuva Morcha member in Dakshina Kannada, in the Lok Sabha constituency of Nalin Kumar Kateel, who heads the Karnataka unit of the BJP, on July 26, 2022, has the party on the back foot.

Allegedly killed by cadres of the now-banned Popular Front of India (PFI), this death has severely dented the image of the party in the region. The incident, among other things, led to the PFI's ban by the Union government. The investigation into this incident was handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Second, while the BJP focused on the death of 18-year-old Paresh Mesta, who was aligned with right-wing organisations in Honnavar (Uttara Kannada) in December 2017 (under the Congress regime) as a "communal murder" and used it in big way in the 2018 election, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which took over the investigation, filed a B (closure) report, terming the death an accident in 2022. Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has been citing the closure report as testimony to the BJP's "communal agenda".

Nettaru's murder has also sharpened the debate on the issue of caste. He was from the Billava community, which is on the Other Backward Classes (OBC) list and present in large numbers in the region as a political force.

The people of the community were upset over the murder as many of them identified themselves with the Sangh Parivar. Two Ministers in the State Cabinet from the coastal region represent this community.

The Congress has been vocal in alleging that the Sangh Parivar "uses" Billava youth as its foot soldiers who end up as victims of communal violence, or in jails as accused in cow vigilantism or "moral policing" cases. To counter this, the BJP has fielded four Billava candidates this time – three sitting MLAs and one new face. In addition, the party has taken up a slew of measures to win their confidence.

Billava outreach

The State government has also created a Billava Development Corporation and opened four residential government schools, including three in the coastal belt, and named them after the community's icon, Sree Narayana Guru. It named a government bus stand (at Puttur) after Koti and Chennaya, the two folk heroes revered by the community.

A prominent circle in Mangaluru city, the Lady Hill Circle, has been renamed after Sree Narayana Guru. A training school named after Koti and Chennaya has been opened in Udupi district to help those interested in joining the Indian Army.

Several national and local leaders visiting the coastal belt have been using far less of Hindutva rhetoric and focusing more on the "*sabka vikas*" (progress for all) mantra.

Congress's plank

The Congress, on its part, has announced a separate charter for the development of coastal Karnataka. It includes reconstituting the Coastal Development Authority as a statutory body with an annual budgetary allocation of ₹2,500 crore to create employment and investment opportunities, promoting Mangaluru as the next hub of the IT and garment industries, and the creation of the Narayana Guru Development Board with an annual outlay of ₹250 crore for rehabilitating those involved in preparing liquor and *shendi* (a drink extracted from the sap of the *eechalu* palm tree).

Similarly, the Bunts Development Board – Bunts are a prominent community and a political force in the region – with an annual outlay of ₹250 crore has been promised. Every fisheries worker from the Mogaveera community, who are in large number and have a say in the voting, has been assured of ₹10 lakh insurance cover while a ₹1 lakh interest-free loan and other things has been assured to fisherwomen.

Congress leaders are targeting the BJP mainly by levelling the "40% commission" charge of corruption, with far less focus on ideological issues around the Hindutva plank.

Whether this will remain the tenor of campaign in its last leg or whether Hindutva will find its way back into the rhetoric is yet to be seen.

Electoral tally

The table lists the electorate size, turnout, votes and vote shares secured by the BJP, Congress and others in the past two Assembly elections in 19 coastal constituencies of Karnataka. While the BJP's vote share increased by over 15% points, Congress's vote share remained stagnant

	2018	%	2013	%
Total electorate	38,52,403	-	34,22,951	-
Turnout	30,26,238	78.55	25,69,261	75.06
BJP votes	15,61,497	40.53	8,60,862	25.15
Congress votes	12,12,113	31.46	10,94,203	31.97
Votes of others	2,25,915	5.86	6,14,196	17.94
NOTA	26,713	0.69	-	-

Of its 17 incumbent MLAs in the three coastal districts, the BJP has replaced six with new faces

'We must turn farming into an attractive and dignified profession'

Techie-turned-entrepreneur, who is contesting polls for the second time, says farmers need a say in legislature to bring about policy changes

INTERVIEW

Darshan Puttannaiah

B.S. Satish Kumar

Techie-turned-entrepreneur Darshan Puttannaiah, 45, who is contesting the Karnataka Assembly election from Melukote for the second time as a candidate of the Karnataka Sarvodaya Paksha that predominantly represents farmers, says there is a dire need to turn farming into not only a remunerative venture but also an attractive and dignified profession for the young.

Darshan, son of farmers' leader and politician, the late K. S. Puttannaiah, says farmers need a voice in the legislature to bring about policy changes that can transform their lives and villages. Excerpts:

What is your main intention of entering the poll battle?

Some of the major issues we are trying to take up are farmers' issues such as MSP [minimum support price] apart from education and health. We are also trying to figure out how we can impart financial literacy to farmers.

We are also looking at holistic development of farmers in villages. We know it will take generations.

But our intention is to begin this process of transformation through financial literacy and modernisation of lives.

How do you think you can make a difference through legislative power if you win?

Evolving strong policies around issues concerning farmers is the key. A majority of the present policies are not really farmer-centric.

Most of the revenue for the government comes from farming. But if you look at the State Budget, it is upside down. We need to fix it. Once it is fixed, then you will have enough investments in the village. Then we can think of modernising the infrastructure and lives of people in villages which would ultimately pave the way for real development of the country. Then we need to ensure adequate MSPs. Putting in place a loan waiver system that will prevent farmers from falling into the debt trap is also important.

There is a feeling that the political system has failed to understand or respond effectively to the aspirations of farm youth in tune with the changing times.

Absolutely true. Youth are farming the same way as our forefathers were doing. Helping them to upscale and also change in tune with the present-day requirements through proper training is important.

There is a dire need to not only make farming more remunerative but also a respectful profession so that youth stay back in villages and take to farming.

Is it not baffling that there is not much convergence of IT and agriculture, though Bengaluru is the IT hub. Will a convergence not help solve problem of marketing for farmers?

Yes. We need to use technology to create jobs through small-scale industries in villages and to bring about transparency in the functioning of government systems. Once there is transparency, leakage of resources will stop and farmers will have more money. Then we must help them create new markets through application of technology.

What are the main issues in these elections?

There are four immediate issues. One is the need for evolving a policy on remunerative MSPs. Second and third are ensuring quality and affordable education as well as health care systems. These two are the main reasons for rural people facing financial burden.

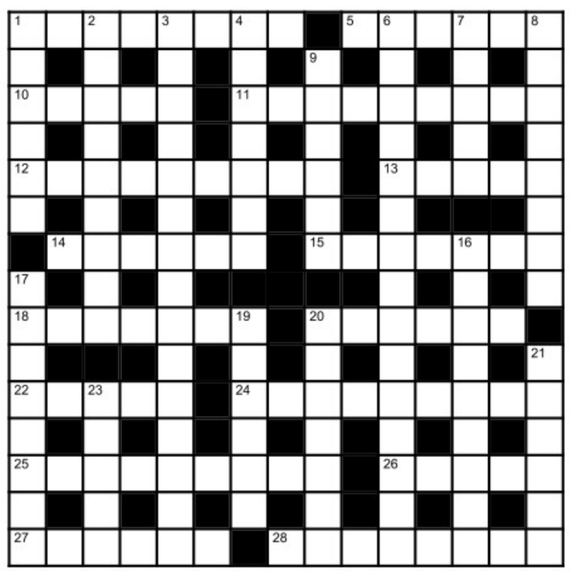
The fourth is the creation of transparent system in the functioning of government offices through adoption of technology at taluk level to ensure that work is done efficiently without bribes.

TH CROSSWORD + 13849

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Meet girl for small talk (8)
5 A fine new deli at a distance (6)
10 Express pleasure, consuming drug that's less adulterated (5)
11 Similarities with a gasoline compound (9)
12 Wrong anagram in that clue! Time wasted (9)
13 Type of lymphocyte, say, tackling coronavirus primarily (1-4)
14 Sadness in group at hospital (6)
15 Most silly, putting pepper over pastries (7)
18 Leader of industry in revolting deceit - that's extraordinarily clear (7)
20 Wow! Making a comeback, Delhi's opener gets two ducks - it's bad luck (6)
22 Character hugging black oak tree (5)
24 Became exhausted in rave party, spinning over spot (3,2,4)
25 Settled back, cuddling primarily sexy damsel in sack (9)
26 Set of three diamonds lost - lady in distress (5)
27 Fine and clear say, turning cooler (6)
28 Stay warm, travelling in rail transport systems (8)

Down

1 Avoid company and sulk (3,3)
2 Governess in series about rebellious ladies securing independence (9)
3 Shocking threats made to crush bowler perhaps on English field (5-10)
4 Good cuts and flicks (7)
6 How one might enter the solution to this clue completely (4,3,2,6)
7 Pick travel items, bags (5)
8 Heartbroken as boyfriend embraces miss in retreat (8)
9 Upset after wife cried (6)
16 Arcane stuff from fancy store, one maintained by retired expert (9)
17 Tried jogging in mist, fell over in ditch (3,3,2)
19 Colour of church tower (6)
20 Fitter after getting hold of extremely noted trainer (7)
21 Overwhelmed by drinks, director on date becomes confused (6)
23 Fool interrupting most famous deep-voiced singers (5)

SUDOKU

	2	3	4	6	7			
	4	7	2			3		
							2	
	6			1		2		9
9		1		5			6	
	7							
		8			6	9	3	
			5	4	3	6	7	

No.SS5780 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	5	6	8	9	3	7	4	2
3	4	9	1	7	2	8	6	5
2	8	7	4	5	6	9	1	3
5	9	3	6	4	1	2	8	7
4	7	2	9	3	8	6	5	1
8	6	1	7	2	5	3	9	4
6	2	5	3	8	4	1	7	9
9	3	8	5	1	7	4	2	6
7	1	4	2	6	9	5	3	8

FAITH

Why cow is called gomatha?

The Lord grants liberation to those who surrender to Him. They have realised that He is the *upaaya* (means) to liberation. In this respect, we have a lot to learn from the cows of Gokula. They had no cares in the world, for they knew Krishna was there to protect them. That absolute trust in Him is essential for moksha, said Velukkudi Krishnan in a discourse.

The cows would make their way to Brindavan to graze there. They knew the route well, and the Gopas and Gopikas just had to follow them. Similarly, all we have to do is to take the path shown by our revered Acharyas. Once breast fed babies are weaned, it is cow's milk that they are given. Cows are equal to our mothers. That is why the cow is called gomatha. Looking after cows confers merits on us. This does not mean only cows that yield milk. Should we not be grateful for the milk they have given us for many years? Sadly, we think on selfish lines these days, and turn out cows, when they are past the age of fertility. This sorry state of affairs was predicted in the Vishnu Purana. This Purana anticipated what was to come and said that in future, people would look after cows only for their milk, and not because they were sacred. It is because cows are considered sacred, that go daana is significant.

In the Ayodhya Kanda of the Ramayana, we find the story of a poor Brahmin who asked Rama for help. Rama said all he had to do was to throw the staff he held in his hand. All the cows which came within its ambit would be given to him. The man threw his staff and it fell some distance away, and result was that thousands of cows became his.

NEW YORK

Rape allegation by ex-columnist against Trump heads to civil trial

REUTERS

A civil trial over an allegation that ex-President Donald Trump raped a former American columnist three decades ago got under way on Tuesday with jury selection. The writer E. Jean Carroll says Mr. Trump sexually assaulted her in a department store and defamed her after she went public with the allegation years later. AFP

SHAKAHOLA

Kenya starvation cult 'massacre' toll hits 90 as search paused

AFP

The death toll from a suspected Kenyan starvation cult climbed to 90 on Tuesday, including many children, as police said investigators were pausing the search for bodies because the morgues were full. "We don't know how many more graves, how many more bodies, we are likely to discover," Interior Minister Kithure Kindiki said. AFP

BOGOTÁ

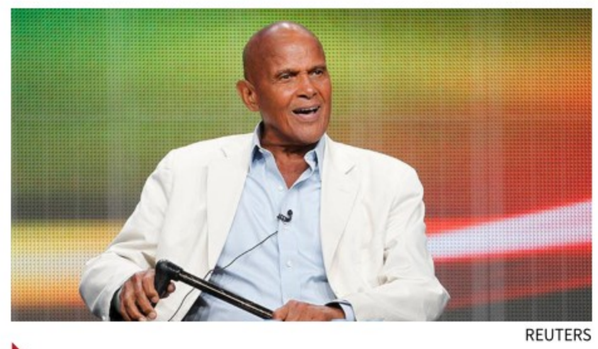
Venezuela's Opposition leader Guaido expelled from Colombia

REUTERS

Colombia expelled Venezuelan Opposition figure Juan Guaido on Monday, hours after he arrived in Bogota for a conference on his crisis-torn country. Neither Guaido, recognized in 2019 by more than 50 countries as Venezuela's *de facto* leader, nor Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro was invited to attend the event. AFP

NEW YORK

Harry Belafonte, activist and entertainer, dies at 96 in New York



REUTERS

Harry Belafonte, the civil rights and entertainment giant who began as a groundbreaking actor and singer and became an activist, humanitarian and conscience of the world, has died. He was 96. Mr. Belafonte died on Tuesday of congestive heart failure at his New York home, his wife Pamela by his side. AP

'Let's finish this job', says Biden, 80, announcing 2024 presidential run

When I ran for President four years ago, I said we're in a battle for the soul of America, and we still are. This is not a time to be complacent; that's why I'm running for re-election, the U.S. President said in slickly produced video released by his team

Reuters
WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden said on Tuesday he will seek a second White House term in 2024, a decision that will test whether Americans are ready to give the 80-year-old Democrat, already the oldest U.S. President ever, another four years in office.

Mr. Biden made his announcement in a slickly produced video released by his new campaign team, in which he declares it is his job to defend American democracy.

It opens with imagery from the January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol by supporters of former President Donald Trump.

Another round: In this photo from a video, U.S. President Joe Biden announces he is running for re-election on Tuesday. AFP

"When I ran for President four years ago, I said we're in a battle for the soul of America, and we still are," Mr. Biden said. "This is not a time to be complacent. That's why I'm running for re-election."

"Let's finish this job. I know we can," he said.

Mr. Biden described Republican platforms as threats to American freedom, vowing to fight efforts to limit women's healthcare, cut Social Security and ban books, while blasting "MAGA extremists". MAGA is the acronym for the "Make America Great Again" political slogan of Mr. Trump, who may well be Mr. Biden's Republican opponent in the November 2024 election.

Approval rating

In the two years since he took over from Mr. Trump, Mr. Biden won Congress's approval for billions of dollars in federal funds to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and for new infrastructure, and oversaw the lowest levels of unemployment since 1969, although a 40-year high in inflation has marred his economic record.

Mr. Biden's age makes his re-election bid a historic and risky gamble for the Democratic Party, which faces a tough election map to hold the Senate in 2024 and is the minority in the House of Representatives now.

Mr. Biden's approval ratings were stuck at just 39% in a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on April 19 and there are steep concerns about his age among some Americans. He would be 86 by the end of a prospective second term, almost a decade higher than the average U.S. male's life expectancy.

'Huge biological risk after Sudan fighters occupy lab'

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday that fighters in conflict-ravaged Sudan had occupied the national public laboratory holding samples of diseases including polio and measles, creating an "extremely, extremely dangerous" situation. Fighters "kicked out all the technicians from the lab... which is completely under the control of one of the fighting parties as a military base," said Nima Saeed Abid, the WHO's representative in Sudan.

He did not say which of the fighting parties had taken over the laboratory.

Mr. Abid said he had received a call from the head of the national laboratory in Khartoum on Monday, a day before 72-hour ceasefire between Sudan's warring generals officially came into effect. He pointed out that the lab held so-called isolates, or samples, of a range of deadly diseases. The director of the lab had also warned of the danger that "depleting stocks of blood bags risk spoiling due to lack of power," Mr. Abid said.

The UN health agency also said that it had confirmed 14 attacks on healthcare facilities during the fighting, killing eight and injuring two.

The fighting has pitted forces loyal to Army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan against those of his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the Rapid Support Forces.

The Sudanese Health Ministry has put the number of deaths so far at 459, with a further 4,072 wounded, the WHO said on Tuesday, adding that it had not be able to verify that number.

Abdel Fattah al-Burhan

Sudan rivals agree to ceasefire

KHARTOUM
A U.S.-brokered 72-hour ceasefire between Sudan's warring generals officially came into effect on Tuesday after 10 days of urban combat killed hundreds, wounded thousands and sparked a mass exodus of foreigners. AFP

Sri Lanka seeks India's help in evacuating its citizens from Sudan

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has reached out to Indian authorities for help in evacuating its citizens stranded in Sudan, where two generals are fighting for power amid an escalating crisis.

"Our missions in New Delhi and Cairo are in contact with the Indian External Affairs Ministry and mission in Khartoum in Sudan. They offered to provide passage from Port Sudan to Jeddah, according to latest updates from our mission in Cairo," Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Ali Sabry told *The Hindu* on Tuesday. According to him, 41 Sri Lankans are currently in Sudan.

Through Monday, several countries pushed with evacuations of their citizens from Sudan that the UN chief warned, is "on the edge of the abyss", following 10 days of brutal fighting between rival forces. So far, at least 427 people have been killed and over 3,700 injured, according to the UN, which reported tens of thousands of Sudanese civilians "fleeing areas affected by fighting, including to Chad, Egypt and South Sudan".

The resource-rich African nation's warring generals have agreed to a three-day ceasefire, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Monday.

Ali Sabry

Iran books 2 women actors for not wearing headscarves in public

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran has charged two prominent women actors for publishing pictures of themselves flouting the country's dress code for women, just weeks after announcing a crackdown on breaches, local media reported.

Police in Tehran have referred the case against Katayoun Riahi and Pantea Bahram to Iran's judiciary, accusing them of "the crime of removing the hijab in public and posting photos on the internet", the Tasnim news agency said late on Monday.

If prosecuted, the pair could face fines or prison terms. Earlier this month police said they would begin using "smart" technology in public places to crack down on women defying Iran's compulsory dress code.

Last week, photos of Ms. Bahram, 53, went viral after she posed without a headscarf at a film screening, while Ms. Riahi, 61, posted several photos taken in public places around Tehran in which she did not wear a headscarf.

The requirement for women to wear the headscarf in public was imposed shortly after the Islamic revolution of 1979.

The number of women in Iran defying the dress code has increased since a wave of protests following the September 16 death in custody of Kurdish-Iranian Mahsa Amini, 22, for allegedly breaching it.

On April 16, authorities said they had closed 150 commercial establishments whose employees were not complying with the dress code.

Prince Harry sues Murdoch's U.K. group, William 'settles' phone-hacking claim

Reuters
LONDON

Britain's Prince William has settled a phone-hacking claim against Rupert Murdoch's U.K. newspaper arm for a "very large sum" after a secret deal struck with Buckingham Palace, lawyers for the heir's brother Prince Harry said in court documents.

Mr. Harry, the younger son of King Charles, is suing Mr. Murdoch's News Group Newspapers (NGN) at the High Court in London for multiple unlawful acts allegedly committed on behalf of its tabloids, the Sun and now defunct News of the World, from the mid-1990s until 2016.

Prince Harry

During three days of preliminary hearings this week, NGN, which has paid out millions of pounds to settle more than a thousand phone-hacking cases, is seeking to strike out claims by the prince and British actor Hugh Grant, arguing they should have taken action sooner.

It also denies anyone from the Sun was involved in any unlawful activity.

In a submission to the court, Mr. Harry's legal team said the reason he had not brought action before was because a deal had been agreed between NGN and the "institution" - Buckingham Palace - to hold off any claims until the conclusion of other outstanding phone-hacking litigation.

"In responding to this bid by NGN to prevent his claims going to trial, the claimant has had to make public the details of this secret agreement, as well as the fact that his brother, His Royal Highness, Prince William, has recently settled his claim against NGN behind the scenes," his lawyers said.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANISHA Devendra Kumar Balar, R/a Flat H-1602, ETA Garden, Binny Mill Circle, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023 have changed my name to Anisha Balar vide affidavit dt: 25.04.2023 sworn before Notary Smt.A.Manjula, B'luru.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, SACHIN Kumar, S/o Madanlal, R/at Labdhi Nivas, No.5/1, 9th Cross, Kumarapark West, Bengaluru-560020 have changed my name from Sachin Kumar to Sachin Kumar Porwal vide affidavit dated 25-04-2023 before Notary Uday Kumar. K, Bengaluru.

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LEGAL NOTICE

In the Court of Pr. Judge Family Court, Sahebganj, O. Suit NO. 14/2023

Plaintiff: Pravin Kurnar Jha S/o Rajesh Kumar Jha r/o Bartalla street (Dahiatola) P. O + P.S Sahebganj District -Sahebganj, Jharkhand
V/s
Defendant: Nidhi Mishra W/o Pravin Kumar Jha and D/o Late vinodanand Mishra r/o Manikpur Dist. Bhagalpur, Bihar.
At Present Address Second Cross, Sindheseli main road near chetna school, M.H.R layout Bangalore, North Karnataka.
Gazettes Publication.
To, Nidhi Mishra w/o Pravin Kumar Jha Whereas, Pravin Kumar Jha S/o Rajesh Kumar Jha r/o Bartalla street (Dahiatola) P.O + P.S Sahebganj District - Sahebganj, Jharkhand has filed a suit u/s 9 of the Hindu marriage Act. For the restitution of his conjugal life which is pending for your kind appearance and its inform that in this case earlier notice has been send through the Reg. Post to you but have not appear on that day. Therefore, You are hereby directed from this Gazettes Publication to appear in person or through a dully authorized counsel in this court on 15th day of May 2023 at 7.30 a.m to file a written statement you failing which the court shall proceed an Ex-parte against you. This is kind information to you this Gazettes Publication Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this 15th day of April 2023.
Sd/- Principel
(Judge Family Count)
Sahebganj. 15/04/23

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, AAVANCHA Krishna Aradhya S/o Avantsa Ramanuja Rao R/o B112, Vineyard Residency, 22, Heera Chand Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru-560005 have changed my name from Aavancha Krishna Aradhya to Avantsa Krishna Aradhya vide affidavit dated 24-04-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I, AAVANCHA Sudha Madhuri W/o Avantsa Ramanuja Rao R/o B112, Vineyard Residency, 22, Heera Chand Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru-560005 have changed my name from Aavancha Sudha Madhuri to Avantsa Sudha Madhuri vide affidavit dated 24-04-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Name of INTERNATIONAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION having office at No. 24, Benson Road, Benson Town, Bangalore 560 046, has been changed to THE SUNITI SOLOMON FOUNDATION, vide certificate no. 386/96-97 & AMR no.59/22-23, Dated 29-03-2023, issued by the office of District Registrar of Societies, Fourth Zone, Bengaluru Urban District.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the public at large that my client Sri. VEERAMANI K. C. S/o. Sri. Chinnaraju, BBMP No. 9, Chelkere, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru East Taluk, now within limits of BBMP, Ward No. 25(Horamavu), Banaswadi Bengaluru -560 043 is absolute owner and in possession and enjoyment of the residential apartment building bearing Katha No. 9, BBMP No. 9(forming part of the residentially converted land Sy. No.102/3 and 103, vide Official Memorandum bearing No. ALN(E)/SR(KH)/55/11-12 dated 07.09.2011 rectified OM dated 7.11.2013, measuring 18.04 guntas) totally measuring 19874 sq.ft., situated at Chelkere, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru East Taluk, now within limits of BBMP, Ward No. 25(Horamavu), with all basic amenities, surrounded by hallow bricks wall which was purchased through a registered sale deed dated 16.11.2013, Document No. HLS-1-04505, stored in CD No. HLSD88 of Office of the Sub-Registrar, Halasuru, Bengaluru and the same was made absolute by a Released Deed dated 13.02.2015 registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar (Banaswadi), Bengaluru, vide document No. BNS-1-19197/2014-15, stored in CD No. BNSD355 executed by Sri. N. Shiva Prasad by receiving Rs. 2,00,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crores only). My client has also cancelled the Registered GPA bearing Doc. No. 416/2013-14 through a Cancellation of GPA dated 13.5.2014 vide Doc. No. 70/2014-15 executed in favor of Sri. N. Shivaprasad. My client has not executed any documents infavor of Sri.N. Shiva Prasad to transact with the Schedule Property. Take Note that any persons claim under Sri. N. Shiva Prasad any right or title or interest in respect of any portion or entire Schedule Property either in past or present or in future, my client will not be responsible and the said transaction is null and void which is not binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Municipal BBMP No. 9 (forming part of the residentially converted land, vide Official Memorandum bearing No. ALN(E)/SR(KH)/55/11-12 dated 07.09.2011 rectifed OM dated 7.11.2013, measuring 18.04 guntas) totally measuring 19874 sq.ft., situated at Chelkere, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru East Taluk, now within limits of BBMP, Ward No. 25 (Horamavu), presently consisting of apartment building with all basic amenities, surrounded by hallow bricks wall and bounded on- East by: Land bearing Sy. No. 102/4, West by : Land bearing Sy. No. 103, North by : Land bearing Sy. No. 103, South by : Road.

Date: 25-04-2023
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/- A.R. PAWAR
Advocate,
No.45, I Floor, Basavangudi,
Bangalore-560 004.
Mobile No-9448520260

INBRIEF

M&M rolls out all-new Bolero Maxx Pik-Up truck at ₹7.85 lakh

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) has introduced the all-new Bolero Maxx Pik-Up truck range at a starting price of ₹7.85 lakh (ex-showroom). The vehicle has been engineered to offer powerful features and performance-delivering value proposition to customers and operators, M&M said. "We are glad to showcase Mahindra's unwavering commitment to delivering unparalleled value to customers," said Veejay Nakra, President, Automotive Division, M&M.

Serum Institute arm to invest $150 mn more in Biocon unit

Biocon subsidiary Biocon Biologics Ltd. (BBL) and Serum Institute of Life Sciences (SILS), a subsidiary of vaccine maker Serum Institute of India, have agreed to recast the original equity structure contemplated in September 2021. Accordingly, SILS would invest $150 million more in BBL equity via the conversion of $150-million loan provided to Biocon Pharma Ltd., another subsidiary of Biocon, thus taking its aggregate equity investment in BBL to $300 million.

3M to cut 6,000 positions globally to reduce costs

3M Co. said it would cut about 6,000 positions globally as the U.S. industrial conglomerate looks to restructure business amid waning demand and rising costs. "We announced actions that will reduce costs at the corporate centre, further simplify and strengthen supply-chain structure, which will improve margins and cash flow," said CEO Mike Roman. 3M anticipates annual pretax savings of $700 million to $900 million on completion of the cost-cut actions. REUTERS

'Oil prices, El Nino key risks to inflation, growth outlook'

Downside risks to the official 6.5% GDP growth projection for this fiscal dominate, Ministry says in monthly report; flags milk, wheat and crude oil prices as posing risks to the outlook on inflation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Tuesday warned that downside risks to the official 6.5% GDP growth projection for this year could dominate, as the prospect of El Nino conditions triggering a drought, along with geopolitical developments and concerns about global financial stability could affect the "favourable combination of growth and inflation outcomes currently anticipated".

Headwinds ahead

Downside risks dominate the upside risks to the outlook for growth and inflation this year, Finance Ministry cautions

- Flags increase in oil prices following surprise production cut by OPEC+, elevation of risks to monsoon on El Nino forecast s as key concerns
- Further financial troubles in advanced nations could impede capital flows
- Constrained supplies of wheat and milk, hit by disease afflicting millions of cattle, may affect inflation trajectory

The OPEC+ grouping's surprise production cut has seen oil prices rise in April, off their lows of low $70s per barrel in March, the Ministry said in its monthly economic review. "Further troubles in the financial sector in advanced nations can increase risk aversion in financial markets and impede capital flows. Forecasts of El Nino... have elevated the risks to Indian monsoon rains," it noted, stressing the need to be vigilant on these potential risks.

Highlighting the easing of inflationary pressures, the Ministry however cautioned that volatile oil prices and constrained supplies of milk, hit by disease affecting millions of cattle, and wheat may affect the inflation trajectory.

Govt. will not tolerate 'cheating' by e-commerce firms: Goyal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government is not against discount offers and "flash sales" on e-commerce platforms but will not tolerate "cheating" where marketplaces sell their wares through such sales even though the foreign direct investment (FDI) policy does not allow them to sell directly to consumers, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday.

Assuring that the Centre will bring out an e-commerce policy which addresses such sales, Mr. Goyal also pushed for all e-commerce players as well as large corporates like ITC and HUL to join the government-backed Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform, and mooted setting a deadline for such players to come onboard.

On the issue of flash sales, the minister said: "If consumers are getting a good deal, we have no problem. But our objection is two-fold - one is what China did to Indian manufacturing through predatory pricing, dumping goods at very low prices for a long time and killing domestic production.

"The other aspect is marketplaces which are not allowed to do B2C sales... what they are doing is - [when] the consumer comes to a platform where there's a flash sale... the preferred seller gets to sell. That is cheating," he said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,131	0.12
US Dollar	81.95	-0.04
Gold	60,580	0.86
Brent oil	81.08	-1.80

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1844.60	42.65
Adani Ports	671.45	0.15
Apollo Hosp	4416.50	17.45
Asian Paints	2898.00	6.90
Axis Bank	878.35	-3.95
Bajaj Auto	4342.55	10.45
Bajaj Finserv	1345.80	26.05
Bajaj Finance	6075.25	141.50
Bharti Airtel	772.60	12.35
BPCL	347.50	0.30
Britannia Ind	4402.55	91.55
Cipla	909.65	6.65
Coal India	230.25	-1.30
Divis Lab	3226.45	33.60
Dr Reddys Lab	4833.30	27.20
Eicher Motors	3217.95	35.15
Grasim Ind	1686.85	-2.45
HCL Tech	1053.45	-0.60
HDFC	2757.00	-30.55
HDFC Bank	1664.15	-24.00
HDFC Life	529.75	-17.80
Hero MotoCorp	2497.75	-3.30
Hindalco	429.80	2.00
Hind Unilever	2490.45	-9.30
ICICI Bank	913.45	8.70
IndusInd Bank	1121.75	19.75
Infosys	1224.90	-1.40
ITC	411.55	2.85
JSW Steel	725.00	4.65
Kotak Bank	1889.30	-7.95
L&T	2247.95	19.05
M&M	1209.85	2.10
Maruti Suzuki	8468.90	2.75
NestleIndia	20665.20	-24.10
NTPC	171.10	0.15
ONGC	160.65	0.40
PowerGrid Corp	232.90	0.95
Reliance Ind	2376.05	18.05
SBI Life	1105.85	0.15
State Bank	561.80	7.20
Sun Pharma	972.50	-6.65
TataConsumerProduct	734.45	1.90
Tata Motors	473.55	-1.65
Tata Steel	107.05	0.55
TCS	3176.00	1.20
Tech Mahindra	997.00	-9.10
Titan	2633.20	3.65
UltraTech Cement	7439.20	-1.35
UPL	714.65	-15.20
Wipro	375.65	-2.30

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 25

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.71	82.03
Euro	90.12	90.48
British Pound	101.88	102.29
Japanese Yen (100)	61.00	61.24
Chinese Yuan	11.81	11.86
Swiss Franc	92.14	92.50
Singapore Dollar	61.16	61.41
Canadian Dollar	60.18	60.42
Malaysian Ringitt	18.38	18.46
Australian Dollar	54.46	54.68

Source:Indian Bank

Adani Ports debt buyback to help cut refinancing risk, says S&P

Reuters
BENGALURU

India's Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone could reduce refinancing risks after announcing a bond buyback worth up to $130 million, S&P Global Ratings said on Tuesday, citing the likelihood of a healthy cash flow in the current fiscal year.

The firm should be able to lower its debt well ahead of the maturity of its $650-million unsecured notes due in July 2024, it added.

SVB-type bank collapse unlikely in India: FinMin

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indian banks appear well-placed to handle any stress arising from the global monetary tightening cycle that has led to the collapse of a few banks in the U.S., including the Silicon Valley Bank, and triggered UBS's takeover of troubled Credit Suisse Bank, the Finance Ministry said on Tuesday.

Apart from measures taken since the 2008 global financial crisis to enhance banks' risk absorption capacity, the Ministry cited six important factors to buttress the stability of India's banking system. It also noted that investment fluctuation reserve buffers have helped banks absorb losses due to rising yields on government securities.

The Ministry's monthly economic review pointed to certain systemic characteristics that will help "reduce the probability of an SVB-like incident occurring in India". For one, 60.1% of total deposits are with public sector banks, while 63% of those deposits are held by households which are considered "sticky retail" customers. Hence, deposit withdrawals in this category will remain limited, it argued.

Moreover, Indian banks hold most of their assets in loans rather than bonds, making them "more immune to the rising interest rate cycle". The build-up of asset-liability mismatch threats triggered by rate increases, is not an "onerous issue" in the Indian banking system, it said.

'IT firms' client additions dip on global macro pressures'

Ayushi Kar
MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys and HCL Tech together saw a 26% contraction in net client additions in FY23, according to data provided by CareEdge, a credit rating company.

Overall, the three firms added 285 new clients in FY23 versus 387 new clients (net) in FY22.

U.S. banking crisis

This data comes amid the overall poor innings by the IT giants in Q4 FY23. Revenues and margins of the top IT majors took a significant beating in the January-March quarter from the banking crisis in the U.S. IT firms are beginning FY24 on an uncertain note as major macroeconomic uncertainties loom.

The $100 million and above vertical added only seven new clients in FY23, a contraction of 68%

For most of FY23, the firms were battling major macroeconomic pressures, from recession fears to the European energy crisis to the latest banking crisis in the U.S.

As IT firms tread cautiously into FY24, they continue to indicate robust deal pipelines would carry them through the crisis.

However, net client additions had reduced significantly across segments in FY23 versus FY22.

In the $1 million and above category, net client additions by the top three IT firms in FY23 fell by 20% to 185 new clients.

In the $10 million and above category, the reduction was even higher at 37% (66 new clients).

The $100 million and above vertical saw the most contraction, with only seven new clients added in FY23, a 68% reduction.

"While the sector dynamics continue to remain intact, uncertainties arising from high inflationary and recessionary environment, especially in the U.S. and Europe, could potentially play spoilsport with respect to discretionary IT spending by corporates and remains the key monitorable," said Swati Singh, analyst at CareEdge.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

No instant hit from WTO ruling on IT tariffs: Centre

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India has ruled out any immediate impact from a World Trade Organization (WTO) panel ruling that the Asian country violated global trading rules by imposing tariffs on some IT products, the country's government said in a statement on Tuesday.

"As per the available Dispute Settlement procedures, India is taking the necessary steps, and is also exploring options available in light of its WTO rights and obligations," the government said.

Such options could include a plan to appeal against the ruling, Reuters has reported.

Arun Nanda

Mahindra veteran Arun Nanda to retire

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Arun Nanda, Chairman, Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Ltd. (MHRIL), has decided to retire after serving the Mahindra group for 50 years.

He joined Mahindra as an accountant in Calcutta in 1973.

Supima platform to validate Pima cotton

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Supima, the marketing brand for U.S.-grown Pima cotton, will introduce in July AQRe Project, a platform assuring authenticity, quality and responsibility of cotton variety used in garments, said Marc Lewkowitz, President and CEO.

As many as 40 Indian textile mills have registered on the platform, according to Mr. Lewkowitz.

Spinners get registered

Mr. Lewkowitz told *The Hindu* that globally 130 spinners had registered on the platform so far.

With garment buyers in several countries looking at sustainability and traceability, the platform uses blockchain-based traceability and forensic science-based technology for authentication of the PIMA cotton used.

There are almost 550 licencees globally for Supima, including 60-70 in India some of which are domestic brands.

Microsoft's Maheshwari named as Nasscom head

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nasscom on Tuesday announced the appointment of Anant Maheshwari, President, Microsoft India, as its chairperson for 2023-24. It also appointed Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman, Cognizant India, as its vice chairperson for 2023-24.

Mr. Maheshwari takes on the new role from his previous role as vice chairperson, succeeding Krishnan Ramanujam, President, Business & Technology Services - Tata Consultancy Services, who served as chairperson for the year 2022-23.

FIRED UP

I always dreamt of winning a match for DC: Mukesh Kumar

Mukesh Kumar, whose final over ensured DC's win over SRH, said, "I always dreamt of winning a match in the last over. I wanted to make full use of the opportunity when I was told I would bowl the last over. I held my nerve and focused on my target. It didn't matter to me if I didn't get wickets."

FINANCIAL HIT

DC captain Warner fined for maintaining slow over-rate

DC captain David Warner has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate against SRH on Monday. "As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Warner was fined ₹12 lakh," IPL said in a statement on Tuesday.

DARK CLOUDS

SRH skipper Markram rues lack of intent from his team

SRH captain Aiden Markam pointed out his team's lack of intent against DC, saying, "not good with the bat. Not enough intent, not excited to win a game, unfortunately. We have to go back and see how we can be free and be better. Our bowling does not deserve to be on the losing side but a small bit of positivity I suppose."

HOMEBOUND

LSG pace spearhead Wood set to miss later stages of IPL

Super Giants pace spearhead Mark Wood is set to miss the final stages of the IPL to attend the birth of his child next month. "Wood and his wife Sarah are expecting their second child towards the end of May, and Wood will fly home at some point in the coming weeks in order to be present at the birth," a report in *ESPNCricinfo* stated.

After Gill-Miller-Abhinav show, Noor-Rashid strike

The three Gujarat Titans batters propel the host past the 200-run mark before the crafty Afghan spin combination scuttles the Mumbai Indians' chase with crucial blows

IPL-16

Lalith Kalidas
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Titans returned to winning ways at the Narendra Modi Stadium as it inflicted a 55-run defeat on Mumbai Indians in the IPL here on Tuesday.

Hardik Pandya's men broke the season's jinx of not defending totals at home while registering their first win against Mumbai Indians, the only team they had previously failed to beat since debut last year.

Titans hoisted their highest IPL total of 207 for six with a Shubman Gill half-century and a deadly David Miller-Abhinav Manohar six-fest.

Clinical: After Gill's fireworks at the top, Miller and Abhinav took over. Noor and Rashid then spun a web around the Mumbai Indians batters. VIJAY SONEJI

Titans move to second

The host's Afghan spin duo of Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmad then strangulated the Mumbai Indians batters in the chase as the Gujarat outfit leapt to second with its fifth victory.

The Mumbai Indians chase was off to a sluggish start as Hardik snapped up his counterpart Rohit Sharma, a mistimed flick offering a simple caught and bowled opportunity in the second over. Hardik and Mohammed Shami restricted Mumbai Indians to 29 for one – its joint-lowest PowerPlay total this season.

Rashid sprang into action in the eighth over as he dismissed a struggling Ishan Kishan and Impact Sub Tilak Varma with a slider within three deliveries. Meanwhile, Noor seized on Mumbai Indians's desperation after it was left with a 150-run deficit in the last ten overs.

Twin strikes

The left-armer castled Cameron Green and dismissed the big-hitting Tim David for a two-ball duck in his third over before stopping Suryakumar Yadav with a brilliant reflex catch off his bowling.

Young southpaw Nehal Wadhera (40) impressed with some lusty hits, but the lower-order had an unsurmountable task before them.

Earlier in the evening, the Mumbai Indians bowling worsened progressively after opting to field. While opener Wriddhiman Saha and Hardik were dismissed within the first seven overs, Gill's counter-attacking knock helped the Titans.

Gill nimbly shifted gears against spinners Piyush Chawla and Kumar Kartikeya to raise his third fifty of the season off 30 balls.

While Gill fell for 56 to Kartikeya in the 12th over, Miller (46, 22b, 2x4, 4x6) and Abhinav's 21-ball 42 resurrected the innings with a 77-run stand.

Rahul Tewatia added the finishing blitz with three maximums during his five-ball cameo.

Mumbai Indians's Australian seam trio – Green, Riley Meredith and Jason Behrendroff – totalled eight sixes in the last three overs. While it was marginally better than last Saturday's death-bowling effort against Punjab Kings, captain Rohit will be in a fix with his options as the league stage enters the second half.

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS
Wriddhiman Saha c Kishan b Tendulkar 4 *(7b)*, Shubman Gill c Suryakumar b Kartikeya 56 *(34b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya c Suryakumar b Chawla 13 *(14b, 1x4)*, Vijay Shankar c David b Chawla 19 *(16b, 1x4, 1x6)*, David Miller c Suryakumar b Behrendorff 46 *(22b, 2x4, 4x6)*, Abhinav Manohar c Behrendorff b Meredith 42 *(21b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 20 *(5b, 3x6)*, Rashid Khan (not out) 2 *(1b)*; Extras (w-5): 5; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 207.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-12 (Saha, 2.1 overs), 2-50 (Hardik, 6.1), 3-91 (Gill, 11.1), 4-101 (Vijay Shankar, 12.2), 5-172 (Abhinav, 18.1), 6-205 (Miller, 19.5).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Tendulkar 2-0-9-1, Behrendorff 4-0-37-1, Meredith 4-0-49-1, Green 2-0-39-0, Chawla 4-0-34-2, Kartikeya 4-0-39-1.

MUMBAI INDIANS
Rohit Sharma c & b Hardik 2 *(8b)*, Ishan Kishan c Little b Rashid 13 *(21b, 1x4)*, Cameron Green b Noor 33 *(26b, 3x6)*, Tilak Varma **(Impact Player in place of Kartikeya)** lbw b Rashid 2 *(3b)*, Suryakumar Yadav c & b Noor 23 *(12b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Tim David c Abhinav b Noor 0 *(2b)*, Nehal Wadhera c Shami b Mohit 40 *(21b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Piyush Chawla run out 18 *(12b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Arjun Tendulkar c Little b Mohit 13 *(9b, 1x6)*, Jason Behrendorff (not out) 3 *(4b)*, Riley Meredith (not out) 0 *(2b)*; Extras (b-4, w-1): 5; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 152.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-4 (Rohit, 1.6), 2-43 (Kishan, 7.3), 3-45 (Tilak, 7.6), 4-59 (Green, 10.2), 5-59 (David, 10.4), 6-90 (Suryakumar, 12.6), 7-135 (Chawla, 17.1), 8-137 (Wadhera, 17.4), 9-152 (Tendulkar, 19.4).

TITANS BOWLING
Shami 4-0-18-0, Hardik 2-0-10-1, Rashid 4-0-27-2, Noor 4-0-37-3, Mohit 4-0-38-2, Little **(Impact Player in place of Gill)** 2-0-18-0.

Toss: MI; **PoM:** Abhinav.
Titans won by 55 runs.

Next assignment

GT: April 29 **vs. KKR**
Kolkata, 3.30 p.m.

MI: April 30 **vs. RR**
Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

KKR needs to pull up its socks when it takes on RCB

Eyeing a turnaround: KKR captain Rana would hope his batters, pegged down in PowerPlay, come good against RCB. K. MURALI KUMAR

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

The last time Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) met Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), its spinners in Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy had left Faf du Plessis and his men in a daze.

The massive 81-run victory at the Eden Gardens set the tone for KKR's campaign, and drowned out all the chatter about RCB's title credentials after the rousing win over Mumbai Indians in the opener.

Halfway into the season, when the two clash again, this time at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday, it feels like a whole new world.

KKR has lost four in a row and is now eighth in the table. RCB has found ways to win – three of its last four games – despite not exuding the vibes of a trophy-contender and even while defending totals (all three being day games).

KKR's problems are manifold. Its batters have repeatedly been pegged back in the PowerPlay while frontline bowlers in Narine and Umesh Yadav have gone wicketless in the last four and six matches respectively.

Maverick Andre Russell is yet to explode and while there have been notable performances from the likes of Rinku Singh, Venkatesh Iyer, Jason Roy and skipper Nitish Rana, they have only played solo.

For RCB, it will be important for the middle-order to fire, when given the opportunity. The top-three of Virat Kohli, du Plessis and Glenn Maxwell have scored the bulk of the runs in what seems like a throwback to the times when Kohli, Chris Gayle and A.B. de Villiers dominated. But the team will be better served by not being so top-heavy.

Today's match

RCB vs. KKR
Bengaluru, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 31
RCB 14 | KKR 17

PREVIOUS MEETING
KKR won by **81 runs**, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

Final-over finishes

In the 34 games of IPL-16 so far, 20 of them have been decided in the last over or final delivery. A look at the matches in which both teams had a shot till the end

No.	Team 1	Team 2	Result
1	GT	CSK	GT won by 5 wkts in 19.2 overs
2	CSK	LSG	CSK won by 12 runs
3	RR	PBKS	PBKS won by 5 runs
4	GT	KKR	KKR won by 3 wkts in 20 overs
5	RCB	LSG	LSG won by 1 wkt in 20 overs
6	DC	MI	MI won by six wkts in 20 overs
7	CSK	RR	RR won by 3 runs
8	PBKS	GT	GT won by 6 wkts in 19.5 overs
9	KKR	SRH	SRH won by 23 runs
10	RCB	DC	RCB won by 23 runs
11	LSG	PBKS	PBKS won by 2 wkts in 19.3 overs
12	GT	RR	RR won by 3 wkts in 19.2 overs
13	RCB	CSK	CSK won by 8 runs
14	MI	SRH	MI won by 14 runs
15	RR	LSG	LSG won by 10 runs
16	DC	KKR	DC won by 4 wkts in 19.2 overs
17	LSG	GT	GT won by 7 runs
18	MI	PBKS	PBKS won by 13 runs
19	RCB	RR	RCB won by 7 runs
20	SRH	DC	DC won by 7 runs

Compiled by **S. Dipak Ragav** * till the SRH-DC match on April 24

Kuldeep Yadav credits Warner's leadership, bowlers for vital win

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Delhi Capitals chinaman bowler Kuldeep Yadav felt his team needed to improve its batting even as the bowling unit had been doing a really good job.

Speaking to the media after Delhi beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven runs in the IPL here on Monday night, Kuldeep said even at the half-time, the team believed 100 per cent that they had a chance to win the contest.

"As a bowling unit we did really well, bowled well in the power-play. Me and Axar (Patel) just kept the team in the game and in the last four overs Nortje and Mukesh did their job," he said.

"Washington bowled really well picking three wickets. So, it was important for the spinners to keep bowling good length. The planning by the captain (Warner) was superb," Kuldeep said.

On Mukesh Kumar bowling the crucial last over, he said: "He had been bowling well in what was his first IPL season and improving every day," he added.

Sunrisers head coach Brian Lara felt there were no devils in the pitch and that they left everything too late.

"The batters need to be more enterprising, take advantage of the powerplays," he said,

"In the middle-overs the bowlers try to cramp you and we allowed that to happen to make the equation tough too," Lara said.

On Mayank Agarwal as opener, Lara said they felt they needed someone to hold the innings together and also a left-hander like Abhishek Sharma, who played a nice knock against Kolkata the other night, at No.5.

Points Table

	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Chennai Super Kings	7	5	2	10	0.662
Gujarat Titans	7	5	2	10	0.580
Rajasthan Royals	7	4	3	8	0.844
Lucknow Super Giants	7	4	3	8	0.547
Royal Challengers Bangalore	7	4	3	8	-0.008
Punjab Kings	7	4	3	8	-0.162
Mumbai Indians	7	3	4	6	-0.620
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	2	5	4	-0.186
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	2	5	4	-0.725
Delhi Capitals	7	2	5	4	-0.961

After the GT-MI match on April 25

Warner. SPORTZPICS/IPL

INBRIEF

Chapman's century stuns Pakistan; NZ levels series

Mark Chapman's brilliant 104 not out off 57 balls and all-rounder Jimmy Neesham's unbeaten 45 helped New Zealand chase down a target of 194 and beat Pakistan by six wickets in the fifth Twenty20 in Rawalpindi on Monday, coming from 2-0 down to draw the series 2-2. Earlier, Mohammad Rizwan's unbeaten 98 guided Pakistan to a solid 193 for five in its 20 overs. "We are very happy with how we levelled the series," said Chapman. "It took a bit of adjusting in the first two games and it's great to see that it worked out well. I was pretty thankful that Jimmy came out all-guns-blazing."

The scores: Pakistan 193/5 in 20 overs (Mohd. Rizwan 98 n.o., Iftikhar Ahmed 36, Imad Wasim 31, Blair Tickner 3/33) lost to New Zealand 194/4 in 19.2 overs (M. Chapman 104 n.o., James Neesham 45 n.o.). New Zealand won by six wickets, series drawn 2-2.

Rajasthan men make the final of Fed Cup volleyball

Rajasthan entered the men's final of the 36th Federation Cup volleyball championships in Karaikal on Tuesday, with a 25-23, 25-20, 19-25, 26-24 win over Railways.

Indian squad named for table tennis Worlds

G. Sathiyan and Manika Batra will spearhead a 11-member Indian squad at World table tennis championships to be held in Durban, South Africa, from May 20 to 28.

The squad: Men: Singles: G. Sathiyan, Sharath Kamal, Manush Shah, and Harmeet Desai; **Doubles:** Sathiyan & Sharath; Manush & Harmeet.

Women: Singles: Manika, Akula Sreeja, Sutirtha Mukherjee, and Reeth Rishya; **Doubles:** Manika & Archana Kamath; Sreeja & Diya.

Mixed doubles: Sathiyan & Manika; Manav Thakkar & Archana Kamath.

Coaches: Subhajit Saha (men) & Mamata Prabhu (women).

Sharjah stadium unveils Sachin Tendulkar Stand

The Sharjah Cricket Stadium unveiled the Sachin Tendulkar Stand on Tuesday. The Sharjah stadium has a special place in Tendulkar's career. He scored 1,778 runs in 42 innings at 48.05 with seven centuries and seven fifties. The best being 143. Taking to Instagram, the Sharjah Cricket Stadium wrote: "Unveiling the Sachin Tendulkar Stand at Sharjah Cricket Stadium was a moment of pride and nostalgia. Celebrating the legendary cricketer's 50th birthday and 25th anniversary of his Desert Storm innings made it even more special!"

Sumit Nagal advances in Rome challenger

Qualifier Sumit Nagal beat fourth seed Francesco Maestrelli of Italy 6-2, 6-4 in the first round of the €73,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Rome on Tuesday. In the $25,000 ITF men's tournament in Jakarta, top seed Ramkumar Ramanathan was beaten 6-0, 6-2 by Ray Ho of Chinese Taipei.

Other results: $25,000 ITF men, Jakarta, Indonesia: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Sai Karteek Reddy & Shashank Theertha bt Tomohiro Masabayashi & Takeru Yuzuki (Jpn) 6-3, 3-6, [10-3].
$60,000 ITF women, Oeiras, Portugal: First round: Greet Minnen (Bel) bt Karman Kaur Thandi 6-2, 6-3.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 a.m.

Sri Lanka vs Ireland: 2nd Test, day 3, Sony Sports 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 a.m.

World Chess championship: FIDE & *Chess.com YouTube* channels, 2.30 p.m. onwards

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)

Premier League: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

Ajinkya Rahane back in the mix for India

The experienced batter's return, after a year in the wilderness, may have been forced due to lack of alternatives; he will vie with Rahul for the No. 5 slot in the line-up; the rest of the squad selection is along expected lines with Bharat retained as wicketkeeper despite a so-so show against Australia

WTC FINAL

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Ajinkya Rahane has been recalled to India's Test squad after more than a year for the World Test Championship final versus Australia, to be played at the Oval in London from June 7.

Rahane, who was dropped in January 2022 after India's tour to South Africa following a prolonged mediocre run with the willow, has come in for Suryakumar Yadav, who was handed a debut during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in February.

On a roll: Rahane has been in top form for Mumbai through the Ranji Trophy, which he has carried over into the IPL. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Silken touch

Ever since being dropped from India's squad, Rahane led Mumbai all through the Ranji Trophy. He scored 634 runs in 11 innings at an average of 57.

Even though Mumbai did not qualify for the knockouts, Rahane has persisted with his silken touch in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

While the Board of Control for Cricket in India neither issued a statement nor organised an interaction with interim chief selector Shiv Sundar Das after the squad announcement on Tuesday morning, *The Hindu* understands that the selectors in consultation with the team management decided to recall Rahane due to lack of alternatives.

With Rishabh Pant still recovering after a road accident and Shreyas Iyer, Hanuma Vihari and Rajat Patidar unavailable for selection, the selectors during the meeting on Monday night were forced to bring Rahane back.

West Indies bound?

The move is not only looking at strengthening the squad with experience for a crucial match.

"It may not end up being a solitary one-match affair. If Shreyas doesn't recover in time, Rahane will travel to the West Indies (Test series in July-August) as well," revealed an insider.

Barring Rahane's inclusion, the rest of the squad is along expected lines.

Despite his topsy-turvy outing versus Australia, K.S. Bharat has been retained as the wicketkeeper. K.L. Rahul will act as a back-up opener, reserve wicketkeeper and a possible option in the middle order, vying with Rahane for the No. 5 slot.

The squad: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, K.L. Rahul, K.S. Bharat (wk), R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, and Jaydev Unadkat.

Rahane's Test record so far

M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg.	100s/50s
82	140	**4931**	188	38.52	12/25

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Bellary HC thumps BCYA 'B'

Bellary HC blanked BCYA 'B' 6-0 in the 92nd Travancore Cup hockey tournament here.
The result: Bellary HC 6 (Sumanth 16, Lokesh 23, 44, Nagarjuna Reddy 46, Jeshwanth 48, Basavaraj 49) bt BCYA 'B' 0.

Facile win for MSRIT

MSRIT defeated BMSCE by seven wickets in the Ramaiah IT Diamond Jubilee and Centenary Celebration of Dr. M.S. Ramaiah all India inter-engineering college cricket tournament here.
The scores: GAT 151/8 in 30 overs (V.P. Neeraj 61) lost to RVCE 153/3 in 23.3 overs (Neeraj 46, Lochan Appanna 43); BMSCE 115 in 20.2 overs (Himanshu 26) lost to MSRIT 116/3 in 13 overs (N. Yash 50, K. Rahul 28).

Gowda stars for Southern Blues

Gowda (40 points) powered Southern Blues BC past Mangalore BC in the State 'A' division basketball men's league here on Tuesday.
The results:
ASC 95 (Ravi 29, Manikanta 20) bt Beagles BC 71 (Kushal 20, Achintya 18, Satyajit 17);
Southern Blues 88 (Gowda 40) bt Mangalore BC 83 (Rajath 29, Sai Samyam 13).
Bank of Baroda 109 (Harish 22, Arvind 20) bt GST & Customs 55 (Hrishikesh 26, Avinash 10);
Young Orions SC 88 (Sumanth 22, Gautham 17) bt IBBC 68 (Karan 17, Skanda 14, Suresh 13).

Six CA crushes Just Cricket Academy

Six CA whipped Just Cricket Academy by 10 wickets in the Tiger Cup under-14 cricket tournament here.
The scores:
Just Cricket Academy 52 in 15.4 overs (Paarth Madan 5/12) lost to Six CA 54 for no loss in 5.4 overs (Krish Dhami 26 n.o.).
RXCA 105 in 25.2 overs (S. Rajat 3/26) lost to Kapil CC 108/8 in 22.5 overs (B. Hariharan 34, Advaya Deshkar 3/21).

Richards-Ross is Intl. Event Ambassador for TCS World 10K

Acclaimed track athlete Sanya Richards-Ross will serve as the International Event Ambassador for the 15th edition of the Tata Consultancy Services World 10K Bengaluru to be held on May 21.

Richards-Ross has five Olympic medals under her belt – three golds in the 4x400m women's relay (2004 Athens, 2008 Beijing and 2012 London), a gold in the 400m (2012), and a bronze in the 400m (2008). The Jamaica-born American is the only woman to win the 4x400m relay at three successive Olympics.

Richards-Ross, who also won seven medals at the World Championships, retired from competitive sports before the Rio Games in 2016 due to injuries.

Richards-Ross. FILE PHOTO

Former coach Toni optimistic about Nadal playing Roland-Garros

Agence France Presse
MADRID

Rafael Nadal's uncle and former coach, Toni Nadal, is confident his nephew will play at the French Open, but admitted on Tuesday that the record 14-time champion will not arrive under ideal circumstances.

"Obviously he will not arrive with good preparation, we must not fool ourselves, because, obviously, since January 10 I think, he hasn't played any matches," added Toni.

"He hasn't competed for quite some time... even before January, he didn't compete much either, but I think Rafael will pick up form soon," said Toni.

"In a Grand Slam, it depends a lot on the draw. If you're lucky enough to have a good draw in the first rounds, then... well.

Nadal. AFP

"Rafael in the second week is already a favourite, in the first week, lately maybe he is not, he was not last year in Australia, but from the second week, you can count on him. And I hope the same thing happens at Roland-Garros."

Carles Cuadrat named East Bengal coach

FOOTBALL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Emami East Bengal FC announced Carles Cuadrat as its coach for the upcoming season.

The Spanish coach replaces Englishman Stephen Constantine, under whom the team finished ninth last season.

Cuadrat, who helped Bengaluru FC win the Indian Super League title in 2018-19 season, will be managing a second ISL club when he assumes the responsibility. Cuadrat has been drafted in on a two-year contract, a statement from the franchise said.

With East Bengal finishing low in the bottom half of the table every time since its ISL debut in 2020, the management decided to start the team formation early this time.

The appointment of Cuadrat, who has the knowledge of Indian football scenario and the merit of leading Bengaluru FC to the ISL title, is a first step in that direction.

Injured Jabeur to miss Madrid Open

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

Ons Jabeur will not defend her title at the WTA Madrid Open after withdrawing Monday with a calf injury. Jabeur, fourth in the WTA rankings, had pulled out of her semifinal against Iga Swiatek at the Stuttgart Open on Saturday. "Further to many medical exams done, it shows that I have a small tear in my calf and I will need more time to recover," Jabeur announced.

Ons Jabeur. AP

Cricket shouldn't float on barrels of oil at a time of climate crisis

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

In the recent issue of *Wisden*, the 160th, there is a plea for giving Test cricket the 'kiss of life'. The editor wasn't exaggerating. In fact, if anything he might have actually understated the problem. Perhaps it is cricket itself, in all its forms and formats that is in need of the kiss of life.

The Almanack says: "The national boards have handed the keys to the self-interested few, and lost control of players they nurtured. The Indian franchises have been allowed to take over the house... private money calls the shots."

Man-made perils

Internal threats leading to an implosion is one thing, and worrying enough, but the game faces two external perils, both man-made, and not coincidentally, connected. The first is climate change, and the other the sportswashing ambitions of Saudi Arabia who think it is a good idea to throw pots of oil money at various sports as a PR ploy. Respectability can be bought if you have enough money and good marketing.

At Lord's last week, Peter Frankopan, professor of global history at Oxford and author, recently, of *The Earth Transformed*, spoke at the Wisden dinner of the climate challenges facing cricket. He told *The Guardian*, "Cricket will be the hardest hit of all the major pitch sports by the changing climate. Some 239 million people around the world live less than one metre above sea level, including nearly 75% of Bangladesh – and sea levels are rising.

"In the Caribbean, research suggests that hurricanes could be up to five times more likely if climate targets are missed; in Pakistan, almost 10 million people were displaced by the terrible floods of 2022."

And as world temperatures rise, he gave us a reminder that "Heat exposure isn't just dangerous physically, it affects your cognitive function."

Look at the sponsors

It is time cricket took a hard look at its sponsors. Last year Saudi Arabia's Aramco, the biggest oil company in the world, became a global sponsor of the sport. The company's contribution to the climate crisis is immense. Fossil fuel and sport do not make good partners in this age. All sports should have standards for sponsors just as they do for players and officials. Clean, renewable energy should be the minimum requirement for sponsorship.

Saudi Arabia are also looking for a more direct involvement, with an IPL-style tournament blessed (and possibly run) by the Board of Control for Cricket in India. With IPL franchises in the fray. This means Indian players, so far unavailable for T20 franchise tournaments around the world might be given no-objection certificates to participate in Saudi Arabia in a tournament that will take another chunk of dates away from the international calendar. It might even rival the IPL for the amount of money involved, for, as the Saudis have shown with golf and one-off boxing or tennis, they have to be the biggest, the most paying, the greatest etc. Sport as ego-massager.

Development concerns

Whatever the criticisms against national cricket boards like the BCCI, the fact remains that cricket is their main concern; the development, advancement and spread of the game is as important as the growth of the players for their respective countries.

The Saudis are unlikely to have any such issues – the game's not as important; it is a means to an end. It brings with it acceptance for and approval of a country where women have no voice and power is absolute in the ruler, where dissent is dealt with summarily and all are not equal.

That might apply, with variations, to some cricket-playing countries too, so why not Saudi, some might ask? When inequality is built into law and when motivations are as clear as they are, perhaps it is time to take a step back and consider. Selling the game to the highest bidder is not in the job description of any administrator.

The cynic might argue that with the climate crisis set to bring a premature end to the game anyway, perhaps wisdom lies in making as much money from it as quickly as possible before that world ends.

And who better to take that money from than the company which has been responsible for 4.38% of all greenhouse gas emissions since 1965?

The changing shape of cricket has been a running theme for a while now. But those were changes from within. Now we have the enemy at the gates too.

Mauricio's brace helps Odisha lift the trophy

His goals give coach Miranda and his boys their greatest moment as Bengaluru FC suffers its second defeat in a final in as many months

Celebration time: Odisha FC emerged a surprise winner against Bengaluru FC. K. RAGESH

SUPER CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOZHIKODE

The man with the ISL's golden boot struck twice within a space of 15 minutes to lead Odisha FC to its greatest moment. The two goals in the opening half from Diego Mauricio gave Odisha the Super Cup on an unusually wet Tuesday night. Odisha won the final against Bengaluru FC 2-1 and thus its first trophy.

While it was the first-ever final for Odisha, it was the third of the season for Bengaluru. For Simon Grayson's boys, it was the second defeat in a final in as many months; they had lost the ISL final to ATK Mohun Bagan in a shootout.

Odisha's magnificent four upfront – Mauricio, Nandhakumar, Victor Rodriguez and Jerry Mawihmingthanga – were expected to cause headaches to the formidable Bengaluru defence. And sure they did.

The first goal came off a shocking piece of goalkeeping from the normally dependable Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who was the Player-of-the-Match in the semifinal against Jamshedpur FC.

He made a mess of the free-kick from Mauricio and watched in agony the ball going past the goalline.

Soon, Mauricio doubled the lead for Odisha as he slotted the ball home off a fine header from Jerry, who was given an excellent cross by Rodriguez.

Bengaluru began the second half with four changes and Sunil Chhetri's goal from the penalty spot – Sivasakthi Narayanan was fouled by Aniket Jadhav – late into the match gave the team some hope.

But this night belonged to Odisha coach Clifford Miranda and his boys.

The result: Odisha FC (Mauricio 23 & 38) 2 bt Bengaluru FC 1 (Chhetri 85).

Wrestlers welcome SC order, plan to start training at the protest site from today

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

With the Supreme Court taking cognizance of their sexual harassment complaints on Tuesday, the wrestlers sitting on protest are hopeful of a positive resolution to their demands but insist they will continue to sit in protest till a tangible action is taken.

The protesting wrestlers have sought filing of FIR against former Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and taking him into custody.

Positive step

"We have no faith in or hope from the government, they have already manipulated and let us down. We only have hope from the Supreme Court. We cannot say this is a win in any way but yes, I think we can call it the first step towards justice," Sakshi Malik said.

Bajrang Punia too refrained from reading too much into the court order. "That the highest court in the country has admitted our complaint and questioned the Delhi Police on not registering the FIR is a positive step and gives us hope. But as wrestlers, we know that no fight is over till the end.

"We are not going anywhere till something actually happens on our complaint," he declared.

The wrestlers have claimed threats, bribes and pressure on the complainants – there are seven women wrestlers who have been mentioned but the court has ordered the redaction of all names from the public domain and resealing of the complaints – and blamed some coaches and officials of doing so on behalf of Singh.

"There were 15 girls who deposed in front of the committee formed by the ministry. It is now down to seven in court.

"There is a lot of pressure of all kinds on everyone including us. They want to break us and end our protest but that will not happen. Everyone is welcome to meet us here including the government, but we will not go anywhere. Who will be responsible if anything happens to us," Bajrang added.

Sangeeta Phogat admitted it was tough in an important year for the wrestlers.

"We have the Asian Games and the Olympic qualifiers. We have not trained for a long time and there is very little time left also.

"But between career and respect, the latter will always win. We are told we are lying, we are asked why we did not file any FIR. Now we are doing that but the system is not supporting us.

"When we first protested, we thought it was a serious issue and will be taken seriously.

"The government gave us assurance and we believed it, we were naive. But now we understand this fight can continue for long.

"We are prepared for it and have realised that this is a different battle. But from tomorrow we will train here only, we will get mats, exercise and work out," she declared.

Singh, meanwhile, refused to comment, saying the matter was subjudice and the court will decide. The matter is scheduled for Friday.

Stirling and Campher's tons help Ireland pile it on

IRELAND IN SL

Agence France-Presse
GALLE

Ireland posted its highest Test score of 492 on Tuesday as Paul Stirling and Curtis Campher became only the third and fourth Irishmen to hit centuries in cricket's longest format.

Before rain stopped play on day two, in reply Sri Lanka was 81 without loss, 411 runs behind, with Nishan Madushka unbeaten on 41 and Dimuth Karunaratne 39 not out.

Ireland's day out

But the day belonged to Ireland, with Stirling scoring 103 and Campher 111 after captain Andy Balbirnie made 95 on day one.

Lorcan Tucker scored a useful 80 while Prabath Jayasuriya, the home hero of the first Test, took five wickets for 174.

Asitha Fernando and Vishwa Fernando took two wickets each.

The scores: Ireland 492 in 145.3 overs (Andy Balbirnie 95, Paul Stirling 103, Lorcan Tucker 80, Curtis Campher 111, Prabath Jayasuriya 5/174) vs. Sri Lanka 81/0 in 18.1 overs (Nishan Madushka 41 batting, Dimuth Karunaratne 39 batting).

Sterling show: Campher applauds fellow-centurion Stirling on reaching the three-figure mark. AFP

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Government of Tamilnadu
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT
Notice Inviting Tender
NABARD-RIDF – XXVIII (2022-23)
(G.O.(Ms.) No.53 RD&PR (SGS.1) Department Dated 31.03.2023)
Construction of bridges

1. For details, visit **www.tntenders.gov.in 2.** e-Bids are invited by the Additional Collector (Dev.) / Project Director, DRDA of Ariyalur, Chengalpattu, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Kallakurichi, Kancheepuram, Kanniyakumari, Krishnagiri, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Namakkal, Perambalur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Salem, Sivagangai, Tenkasi, Thanjavur, The Nilgiris, Theni, Tiruvarur, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Tirupathur, Tiruppur, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Villupuram and Virudhunagar Districts for the construction of bridge works package wise under two cover system. **3.** The package wise bid documents can be downloaded free of cost from **www.tntenders.gov.in** from 26.04.2023 to 31.05.2023 **4.** Common date and time for downloading of Bid document, submission and opening:

(i) **Last Date and Time for downloading and Online submission of Bid Documents**	**31.05.2023 Up to 03.00 PM**
(ii) **Date and Time of online opening of Bid Documents**	**31.05.2023 04.00 PM onwards**
DIPR/2289/Tender/2023	**Commissioner, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.**

சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR

OFFICE ORDER NO. 2013 / Date : 24.04.2023

The tender for the work **'(1) Const. of Bridge over Brutanga river at 4th Km on NH-57 to RD road at Ambalimba via. Batagaon under PMGSY-III, Batch-I for the year 2022-23 and (2) Const. of Bridge over Bhaunria Nallah at 1st Km on Astaranga to Patasundarpur under PMGSY-III, Batch-I for the year 2022-23'** invited vide this office NIT No.Tender-Online-C.C -13 of 2023 and issued vide this office Lr.No.1772 Dt-05.04.2023 is here by cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances

Chief Construction Engineer,
Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar.

O-86: OIPR-25082/11/0003/2324

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.

कार्य का शीर्षक तथा ई-निविदा सूचना सं. / Title of work & E-Tender Notice No.	पी.ए.सी./P.A.C.
1. टर्ल्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में पाइरो युक्ति समुच्चयन सुविधा के लिए भवन का निर्माण (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Construction of Building for Pyro Devices Assembly Facility at TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works) NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/03/2023-24 Dt. 25.04.2023	रु./Rs. 714.65 लाख/Lakhs
डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading: दिनांक 26.04.2023, 10:00 बजे/hrs से/to दिनांक 09.05.2023, 23:00 बजे/hrs	

योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। / Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in.

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Advertisement No.:SDSC SHAR/RMT/02/2023 Dated: 26.04.2023

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For detailed advertisement and to apply online, please visit website **https://www.shar.gov.in/** (or) **https://apps.shar.gov.in/.** Last Date for Receipt of Applications: **16.05.2023 (17.00 hrs).**

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Extract of Audited Financial Results for the year ended 31.03.2023 (₹ in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year Ended	
		March 31, 2023 (Audited)	December 31, 2022 (Audited)	March 31, 2022 (Audited)	March 31, 2023 (Audited)	March 31, 2022 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations	1,036.32	868.98	745.73	3,483.04	2,874.15
2.	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	288.38	234.70	324.26	1,139.25	833.84
3.	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	288.38	234.70	324.26	1,139.25	833.84
4.	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	253.62	200.75	226.44	864.63	633.53
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	290.23	308.23	192.88	825.89	555.73
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital	2,284.60	2,284.60	2,284.60	2,284.60	2,284.60
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	3,650.57	3,306.40	2,983.51	3,650.57	2,983.51
8.	Securities Premium Account	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Net worth	5,935.17	5,591.00	5,268.11	5,935.17	5,268.11
10.	~~Paid up Debt Capital~~/ Outstanding Debt	40,165.28	31,885.71	27,613.07	40,165.28	27,613.07
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Debt Equity Ratio	6.77	5.70	5.24	6.77	5.24
13.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -					
	1. Basic:	1.11	0.88	2.83	3.78	8.03
	2. Diluted:	1.11	0.88	2.83	3.78	8.03
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	397.97	386.40	351.68	397.97	351.68
16.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	Not Applicable				
17.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	Not Applicable				

Notes: a) The above results have been recommended by the Audit Committee of Directors and approved by the Board of Directors in their respective meetings held on 25.04.2023.

b) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the LODR Regulations. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the website of the company viz. www.ireda.in and on the websites of stock exchanges viz www.bseindia.com & www.nseindia.com.

c) For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the LODR Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to stock exchanges and can be accessed at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com respectively.

For and on Behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Pradip Kumar Das
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN No. 07448576

Date : 25.04.2023
Place : New Delhi

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